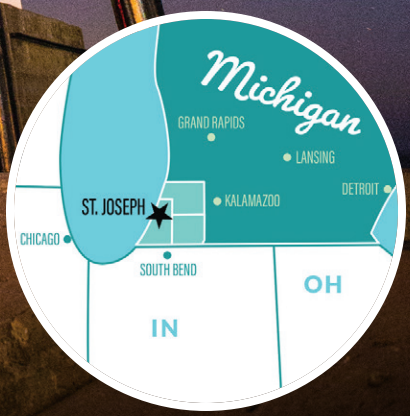
ESCAPE IN

Southwest MICHIGAN

FREE — 2024 OFFICIAL VISITORS GUIDE



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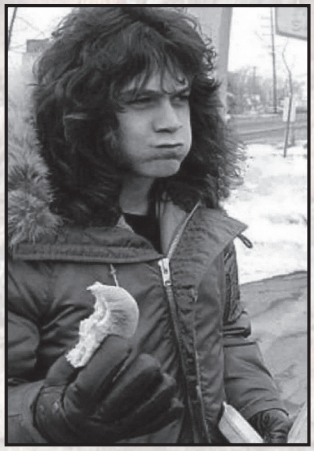

The Brick House Van Halen themed menu is guaranteed to satisfy.

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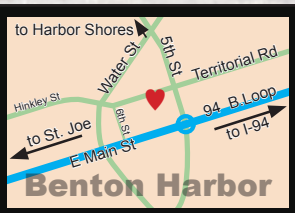

Proudly located in the Benton Harbor Arts District
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Beaches for relaxing and outdoor recreation opportunities are waiting for you.

52 KITCHENAID SENIOR PGA CHAMPIONSHIP
This May, Harbor Shores in Benton Harbor will host this world-class event.

70 MAKERS TRAIL
Explore over 40 breweries, wineries, cideries and distilleries.

HELPFUL HINT
Within social districts, you can purchase food and alcoholic drinks from participating businesses and consume them in outdoor common areas.

SOCIAL DISTRICT - BRIDGMAN

LAKE BLUFF PARK
ST. JOSEPH

FIND LIFE'S *Simple* JOYS

Welcome to Southwest Michigan! During your visit, you'll find that our region's best qualities cater to any vacationer. Children, friends, families, couples and solo travelers can find something to enjoy all four seasons. We hope you consider seeing and doing some of our favorite things, such as visiting our expansive miles of sandy Lake Michigan beaches and hiking trails, gazing up at the dark sky park, antique hunting, boutique shopping, food sampling, craft beverage sipping, exploring our arts, history and culture scene and of course, topping a memorable day off sunset watching.

You're on vacation. We want you to kick back and relax, and we would love to help you plan so that you can. For inspiration, we have idea starters in blogs and itineraries on our website. Please let us know about any other questions you may have — we're happy to help and love to show off our region's best!

Sincerely,

Marcy Simpson
Executive Director
Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council

During your visit, I hope you thoroughly enjoy the warm welcome from our locally-owned businesses and the beauty you will encounter everywhere in Southwest Michigan. I was born and raised in this region, moving away and eventually coming back — so I understand exactly why our visitors return year after year. Each Lake Michigan sunset is uniquely jaw-dropping, so make time to see as many as you can. Explore our towns that wait with open arms and contagious smiles. Want to know more about the Makers Trail, Creative Connections or general traveling inquiries? I am excited to tell you about them!

Brandi Tucker
Office Manager

Do you have a large group coming to Southwest Michigan? My priority is to make you feel welcome and take the planning burden off your shoulders. Anything from destination weddings and business meetings to conventions and reunions can be a breeze to plan by reaching out to us. As a longtime resident of our region, I can't wait to share it with you and the people closest to you. We're always ready to lend a helping hand, so let's talk!

Sarah Steffens
Group Sales and Marketing Coordinator

COVER:
North Pier Lighthouse,
St. Joseph

Southwest MICHIGAN

Southwestern Michigan
Tourist Council Welcome Center
2300 Pipestone Road
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
269-925-6301

SWMICHIGAN.ORG

This is a publication of
Far Ahead Advertising, Inc.
Publishers of MailMax
2202 Plaza Drive
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
269-934-7522
publisher@mailmaxonline.com
MailMaxOnline.com

Publisher: Glen Head

Sales: R. Douglas Farrell,
Kate Marie and Jeff Painter

Graphics: Brook Reddel

PLEASE NOTE
Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information in this guide at the date of publication, errors or changes can occur. Please call ahead and verify.

REQUEST A GUIDE
Please contact the Welcome Center at 269-925-6301, info@swmichigan.org, or at swmichigan.org.

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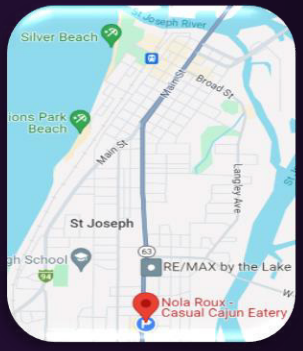

NOW WITH 2 LOCATIONS!

Saint Joseph MI
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269-487-9577

Watervliet MI
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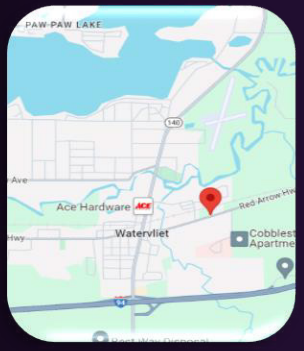
269-201-7012



FOOD TRUCK & EVENT CATERING AVAILABLE

NolaRouxEatery.com

The serene setting of the Woodlands Course combined with the charming atmosphere of our event spaces creates the perfect venue to celebrate your special day. Our premier location in the heart of Michigan's Harbor Country treats guests to rolling acres of trees, water, hills and flowers, offering the feel of a destination wedding with the ease and comfort of your own backyard. Our facilities range in size, offering an ideal location for events of all types, including weddings, anniversaries, banquets and more.

The Woodlands Course remains a must-visit stop for visitors to Michigan's Harbor Country. Through 18 holes of woods, water, and sloping fairways, the Woodlands Course is sure to captivate golfers of all skill levels. The course measures over 7,000 yards from the tips, rendering it a formidable challenge, yet plays under 5,000 yards from the front tees. With five tee placements, the course is perfect for both seasoned pros and those just learning the game.

Situated in a renovated 1920s farmhouse, **The Grille at Whittaker** offers golfers, families, area residents, and vacation visitors unique entertainment and large outdoor/indoor dining options with signature fare and drinks with exceptional golf course views

The Woodlands Course
at Whittaker
Spend a day in the woods.
12578 Wilson Road, New Buffalo, MI 49117
(269) 469-3400 • E-mail: info@whittakergolf.com

First-timers guide to Southwest Michigan

Never been here before? We're here to help you make the most of your stay. Follow this first-timer's guide to Southwest Michigan to make sure you cross off all of the top attractions, restaurants, must-see views and most share-worthy locations from your list.

WHERE TO STAY

First things first, you need somewhere to sleep. Our amenity-filled hotels in Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, and Stevensville are close to everything on your list. Check out our list of hotels on page 100-101.

WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO VISIT SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN?

Southwest Michigan is a four-season travel destination – it's beautiful year round. Of course, the best time to visit depends on what you want to do. Read a little more about each season beginning on page 29 in the THINGS TO DO section and FESTIVALS & EVENTS section on pages 47-65.

Michigan gets a bad rap for our harsh winters but there is a lot we appreciate about this season. You'll be awed by the ice formations on the piers and lighthouses, and enjoy cross-country skiing, snowshoeing or fat-tire biking along quiet snowy trails. Then warm up with wine, cider, beer or spirits at one of our many wineries, breweries, cideries or distilleries. Winter is the least busy time of year to visit, not to mention peaceful and gorgeous. Dress warm!

Popular Winter Activities:

- Cross-country skiing
- Fat tire biking
- Snowshoeing
- Ice skating
- Surfing
- Makers Trail tours
- Creative Connections
- Downtown shopping
- Light Up the Bluff
- Ice Festival

SPRING

Spring is the beautiful time of year when the snow begins to melt, everything turns green again and blossoms begin to pop up. The perfect time to enjoy the fresh air and explore the new exhibits at our galleries and museums before our high season picks up. Southwest Michigan is also a great choice for kids on spring break because there are so many family friendly attractions to keep kids busy all week long.

Popular Spring Activities:

- Blossom tours
- Golfing
- Kayaking
- Hiking
- Explore galleries and museums
- Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade

SUMMER

Being on the coast of Lake Michigan, summer is the most popular time of year to visit. It's warm and sunny and has perfect weather for lake activities. It's also when most of our big events take place. Summer also brings an abundance of produce to our farms and farm stands, and there's nothing like eating fresh-picked fruits and veggies from our local farmers. View our harvest guide to find out when your favorites will be in-season.

Popular Summer Activities:

- Beach
- U-pick cherries, strawberries and blueberries
- Makers Trail tours
- Creative Connections
- Kayaking
- Boating
- Hiking
- Fishing
- Makers Trail Festival
- Chalk the Block

FALL

Fall in Southwest Michigan is seriously underrated! The gorgeous fall colors, mild temperatures and bountiful harvest make fall one of the best times to travel this way. It is also a more laid back and affordable time of year to visit since our busy summer season has come to an end and kids are back at school.

Popular Fall Activities:

- Fall color tours
- Makers Trail tours
- Creative Connections
- Apple picking
- Picking out pumpkins
- Kayaking
- Hiking
- Surfing

PADDLE BOARDING
ST. JOSEPH

What Type of Vacation do You Need?

With hundreds of fun ways to spend time in Southwest Michigan, it isn't always easy knowing what to include in your day. Lucky for you, our self-guided, multiple-day itineraries provide starter ideas and tours to some of our most popular activities and sightseeing locations. Plus, you will find some lesser-known local favorites as well. Learn how long to plan for each stop and when to call ahead for reservations.

Here's a quiz to help determine which itinerary might be best for you!

Do you want to add some family memories to the scrapbook where you can all find something fun? Consider our Family Fun Vacation.

Are you looking for your next vacation to be sans kiddos and reconnecting with the girls? Girls Weekend Getaway it is then!

Want to embrace all our outdoor activities? Peruse the Fresh Air Fun itinerary destinations.

Are you a fan of craft beverages? Always looking for local drinks? Then our self-guided Brew Tour or Food & Wine Tour is a must!

Visit online at **swmichigan.org/itineraries** for the full vacation plan and to explore other itineraries. Have fun! You can follow the suggestions exactly, blend the itineraries or plug in your own destinations.

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EXPERIENCE
The Outdoors

COLOMA/ST. JOSEPH KOA HOLIDAY

Accommodations

Enjoy the comfort of a hotel room in an outdoor package. Deluxe cabins include one or two-bedroom, studio and handicap-friendly floors plans, with kitchens and bathrooms. We even have pet-friendly options so furry family members can come too! Have even S'more fun when you step outside and relax on your private patio area complete with furniture, grill and fire pit.

Ammenities

Family-friendly amenities include an outside in-ground heated swimming pool (Memorial Day-Labor Day), jumping pillow, Gem Mining sluice, mini-golf and more. Each day our Campfire Cafe serves up specailty lattes, donuts, breakfast sandwiches, pizza, wings, snacks, and hand-dipped ice cream!

Recreation

Stretch your legs on our 40-acre property in our wooded nature trail, or venture out to our Lake Michigan beaches, vineyards, orchards, shopping or dining all within a 10 minute drive from the campground.

50th ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 50 years serving southwest Michigan
1974-2024

BOOK YOUR NEXT STAY

3527 Coloma RD
Benton Harbor, MI

269-849-3333
www.stiosephkoa.com

OUR REGION

WHY SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN IS SUCH A UNIQUE AND SPECIAL PLACE

Few places in America offer the gorgeous scenery, farm-fresh deliciousness, and hours upon hours of affordable, family fun you'll find in Southwest Michigan. Our region of Berrien, Cass and Van Buren Counties stretches along miles of Lake Michigan shoreline down to the Indiana-Michigan state border and over into beautiful farmland. The heart of it all is in Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, and Stevensville. Between the beach towns, winter wonderland woods, summer sunsets, fall color, spring blossoms and agriculture harvest, your most memorable vacation awaits.

LAKE BLUFF PARK - ST. JOSEPH

BEST PLACES TO WATCH THE SUNSET

Whether inland or by the coast, Southwest Michigan's sunset game is strong! Enjoy a great meal with the family, or a weekend getaway with your sweetie or your besties, and take in an after-dinner treat featuring beautiful hues of red, orange and yellow streaked across the western skyline. Enjoy watching sunsets in Southwest Michigan.

CONTESSA WINE CELLARS

Coloma

Take a quick trip up I-94 to Coloma (exit 39), and head toward the sprawling winery hill on Friday Road. You'll find Contessa's quaint tasting room. The scenic deck and indoor tasting bar point northwest, looking out for miles across beautiful farmland and fields. Bring your friends and be sure to get a picture.

WARREN DUNES STATE PARK

Sawyer

This majestic location just south of Bridgman is a must for sunset viewing. Every sunset is different and special, and even more so atop Tower Hill, a sand dune 236 feet high! No matter the time of year, if you're an adventure-seeker, scale this sand dune close to sunset, and you will not be disappointed. And it's even more fun on the way down the hill.

A LIGHTHOUSE OR TWO

St. Joseph & South Haven

Can you believe Southwest Michigan is lucky enough to have two of the most beautiful lighthouses within 30 miles of each other? St. Joseph offers lighthouse pier access to catch the sunset after the end of a long beach day by entering at Tiscornia Park. Or, watch from the south end downtown at Silver Beach County Park. Over in South Haven, the beautiful round red lighthouse will blend in nicely with the glowing red sunset over the lake; a perfect backdrop for a family photo to remember for a lifetime.

ENJOY YOUR SUNSET IN NATURE

New Buffalo & Niles

Just north of New Buffalo and down Red Arrow Highway is a new favorite spot for a serene sunset view for the nature-lover. Galien River County Park features a 300-foot tall canopy walkway overlooking the beautiful marsh and wetlands of the Galien River Watershed. The trees are just glowing at sunset and the view? Unforgettable!

Perhaps you'd enjoy a rustic garden view with your sunset. The lodge and grounds at Fernwood Botanic Gardens & Nature Preserve in Niles will keep you in touch with mother nature.

MAKE YOUR SUNSET THE MAIN COURSE

St. Joseph, New Buffalo, Stevensville & Buchanan

Have your meal outside near the water and enjoy a beautiful sunset at locations across Southwest Michigan with stunning views. The Bistro on the Boulevard features space closely overlooking Lake Michigan in St. Joseph, as does Bentwood Tavern in New Buffalo. Perhaps a cocktail and a steak at Grande Mere Inn overlooking Grand Mere State Park fit your fancy. Or maybe a burger and beer at Plank's Tavern at the Inn at Harbor Shores overlooking the marina of the St. Joseph River. Savor a glass of vino in the vineyard at Tabor Hill Winery's beautiful dining hall outside of Baroda. Whatever your choice, you can't go wrong!

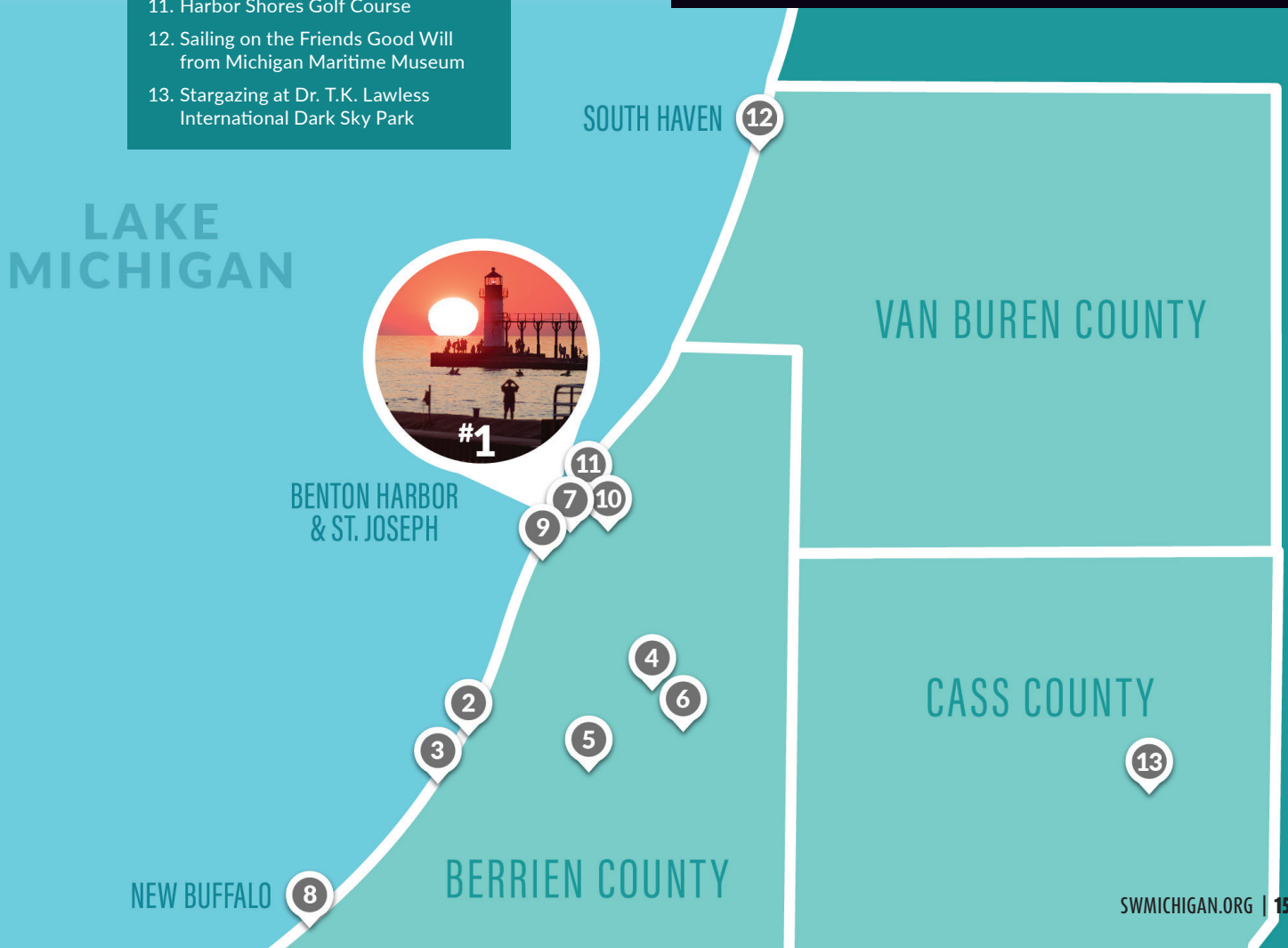
WEKO BEACH

Bridgman

Give thanks for another day at Weko Beach. Residents and visitors alike appreciate a sunset at this Bridgman location for more than just the view; this beach features a volunteer resident paying respects to those we have lost with the daily playing of "Taps" at sunset from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Hearing the bugle call as you take in the dusky hues of the day fading into the lake, there is a sense of reflection and appreciation for life, for love and for the beauty that is bestowed upon us in the moment.

INSTAGRAMMABLE LOCATIONS

1. St. Joseph Lighthouse
2. Weko Beach Sunset
3. Warren Dunes State Park Beach
4. Fruit Picking at Stover's
5. Wine Tasting at Round Barn Estate
6. Berrien County Youth Fair
7. Outdoor Dining at Mason Jar Cafe
8. The view of the Chicago Skyline from New Buffalo
9. Downtown St. Joseph
10. Eden Springs Park
11. Harbor Shores Golf Course
12. Sailing on the Friends Good Will from Michigan Maritime Museum
13. Stargazing at Dr. T.K. Lawless International Dark Sky Park



FARMS AND MARKETS

Where Good-for-You Tastes Delicious

The same Lake Michigan that lures you into its sparkling fresh waters is the reason we harvest one of the largest varieties of fruits and vegetables in the United States! The lake tempers our climate to create some of the best growing conditions. That's why many of our farms have been owned by families for generations.

Today, dozens of our Southwest Michigan farms welcome you into their orchards and fields. Let your children see where their food grows. Handpick the freshest, sweetest strawberries, blueberries, peaches, apples, grapes and more to bring home to your table. Or choose the plumpest pumpkins to carve or beautiful Christmas trees to decorate.

SHARE MEMORIES AT U-PICK ORCHARDS, PUMPKIN PATCHES, CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS AND MORE

Going to our farms isn't just about fruits and vegetables bursting with exceptional flavors. It's about riding the hay wagon out to the orchards or Christmas trees, picnicking on a blanket, finding your way out of a corn maze, watching them milk cows then eating fresh ice cream after and playing outdoor games with grandpa and grandma. Visiting Southwest Michigan farms will become an annual tradition that won't end.

Harvest time

When is the best time to come for your farm-fresh favorites? The green bars show the estimated availability times. Before you come, check with individual farms and markets to confirm there will be plenty when you arrive.

COME & GET IT!	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
APPLES			■	■	■	■	■	
APRICOTS			■	■				
ASPARAGUS	■	■						
BEANS			■	■	■			
BEETS				■	■	■		
BLACKBERRIES				■	■			
BLUEBERRIES				■	■			
BROCCOLI			■	■	■	■		
BRUSSELS SPROUTS						■	■	
CABBAGE			■	■	■	■		
CANTALOUPE				■	■			
CARROTS			■	■	■			
CAULIFLOWER				■	■	■		
CELERY			■	■	■	■	■	
CHERRIES (SWEET)			■	■				
CHERRIES (TART)			■					
CHRISTMAS TREES							■	■
CIDER					■	■	■	
CORN (SWEET)				■	■			
CRANBERRIES						■	■	
CUCUMBERS (PICKLING)				■	■			
CUCUMBERS (SALAD)		■	■	■	■			
EGGPLANT			■	■	■	■		
FLOWERS (ANNUALS)	■	■						
FLOWERS (MUMS)					■	■		
GRAPES					■	■		
GREENS			■	■	■	■		
HERBS		■	■	■	■	■		
KALE		■	■	■	■	■		
LETTUCE			■	■	■			
NECTARINES					■			
ONIONS			■	■	■	■	■	
PARSNIPS					■	■		
PEACHES			■	■	■			
PEARS				■	■			
PEAS		■						
PEPPERS				■	■	■		
PLUMS				■	■			
PLUOTS			■	■				
POTATOES				■	■	■	■	
PUMPKINS					■	■		
RADISHES	■	■	■	■	■	■		
RASPBERRIES			■	■	■			
RHUBARB	■							
RUTABAGAS					■	■	■	
SQUASH (SUMMER)		■	■	■	■			
SQUASH (FALL)					■	■	■	
STRAWBERRIES		■						
TOMATOES				■	■	■		
TURNIPS				■	■	■	■	

COMMUNITY FARMERS MARKETS

Many local farmers bring their fresh produce, jams, cheeses, meats and baked goods to our weekly community markets. Before you come, check with your destination for updates.

BENTON HARBOR
Dwight P. Mitchell City Center Park, 184 E. Main St
mid-June to September
Wednesdays, 10am-3pm

BRIDGMAN
Open Air Market,
4509 Lake St
May to October
Sundays, 9am-3pm

BUCHANAN
In the Common
122 Days Ave
May to mid-October
Saturdays, 8am-1pm

DOWAGIAC
Division & Railroad St
June into October
Wednesdays & Saturdays,
9am-2pm

NEW BUFFALO
2 E. Buffalo St
Memorial Day to Labor Day
Thursdays, 4pm-8pm

NEW BUFFALO
Skip's European Farmers Market
16710 Lakeshore Rd
May into October
Saturdays & Sundays
9am-3pm

NILES
Front & Main St
Check Facebook for dates and times

PAW PAW
Gremps St & E. Michigan Ave
early July to early October
Sundays, 9am-2pm

ST. JOSEPH
Lake Bluff Park
May to October
Saturdays, 9am-2pm

SOUTH HAVEN
539 Huron St
June to August
Wednesdays, 8am-2pm
mid-May to mid-October,
Saturdays, 8am-2pm

TOWNS IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Charming, Vibrant and Strong

Along Lake Michigan, on our riverbanks and in our countryside, you will find some of the best vacation towns in Michigan. Fill your days with beach time, delicious restaurants, shops and galleries. Enjoy your favorite outdoor activities, find new craft beverages, kick back at weekly summer music concerts or have a blast at annual festivals throughout the year. Plan to stay over. There's more fun to discover tomorrow.

BENTON HARBOR

This Lake Michigan beach town wraps around the scenic Paw Paw and St. Joseph Rivers. It is renowned for its pristine beaches, vibrant arts community, championship golf courses and delicious fresh peaches, tomatoes, apples and more.

ST. JOSEPH

This is the Riviera of the Midwest. Unlike many lakefront communities, St. Joseph makes it incredibly easy to reach its soft sand beaches and navigable river. Downtown has preserved its Victorian-era charm and fills the year with music, art and festivals.

STEVENSVILLE

This village is your hub for exploring the delicious craft beverage makers that surround it. Taste the liquid artistry of hand-forged wines, beers, ciders and spirits. Then, relax along nearby Lake Michigan, ice skate year round and explore the culinary creativity of local chefs.

NILES

This city on the St. Joseph River has two distinctions. Four countries — France, Britain, Spain and the United States — flew their national flags during the city's 300+-year history. It's also a place you can immerse in Southwest Michigan's natural beauty.

NEW BUFFALO

Travel + Leisure magazine named New Buffalo one of the 50 Best Places to Travel in 2022. It is your gateway to breathtaking, dune-backed Lake Michigan beaches. Come to paddle, fish, taste craft beverages, watch national and regional acts and enjoy gaming.

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...MINUTES FROM LAKE MICHIGAN

TO BOOK YOUR STAY

WINTER IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

A Top Winter Michigan Destination

Nature loves winter in Southwest Michigan and you will, too. Whether you are coming for a romantic getaway, to play with your children or grandchildren, meet up with your best friends or just enjoy a peaceful solo retreat, this is a top Michigan winter destination from December through February. We are a car ride from Chicago, Detroit, Indianapolis and Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Amtrak also makes daily stops at a depot that's within minutes of most of our winter activities and hotels.

The same Lake Michigan that makes warm weather months so popular here also creates a winter wonderland when the temperature dips below freezing. Thanks to our lake effect snow, Berrien and Van Buren Counties average 80 inches of snowfall annually, and Cass County sees an average snowfall of 60 inches. Our snowiest time is late January through February, but there's typically piles of flakes to play in from mid-December to mid-March. Worried about driving our roads in the winter? We budget for snow removal, and our crews work hard to keep highways and county roads clear while you are visiting.

FUN FACTS

Average snowfall:
60 to 80 inches

Average winter temperatures:
30 to 36° F

Another reason we are a top Michigan winter destination is that the Big Lake also moderates our temperatures so they range from the low to mid-30 degrees Fahrenheit. It's rare that you won't be comfortable playing outside from rosy sunrise to star-studded nightfall.

Swiss Valley is Southwestern Michigan's favorite learn to ski & snowboard destination! Offering mixed terrain for all abilities, you can be sure to find yourself having a blast all winter long. Swiss Valley offers 11 trails, 2 terrain parks, an award winning PSIA/AASI Snowsports school, and 100% snowmaking on the entire hill!

Learn to ski or snowboard here, ski or snowboard anywhere.

Swiss Valley Ski & Snowboard Area
13421 Mann St,
Jones, MI 49061
269.244.5635
SkiSwissValley.com

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EVENTS AND WINTER FESTIVALS

Celebrating winter in Southwest Michigan is as natural as snowflakes sticking to your gloves and eyelashes. It is always more fun if you can join us. Here are some favorite annual winter events:

Mid-November: Luminary Festival: Luminaries light the way to downtown St. Joseph shops

First Weekend of December:

- Light Up the Bluff: Community caroling, the lighting of St. Joseph's tree and festive light displays (this display continues through mid-February)
- Window Wonderland: Stores compete for best window display
- Fanny Mae Memorial Reindog Parade & Santa's Arrival: This annual favorite features pets dressed for the holidays leading Santa into downtown St. Joseph.

Throughout December: Santa welcomes visitors in St. Joseph's Santa's House on specific days leading up to Christmas.

Late-January: Winter Beer Fest: Held outside in downtown St. Joseph, it's a cure for cabin fever.

Early-February: Professional carvers compete in St. Joseph's Ice Fest. There's a 5K race (with chocolate) and outdoor activities for the entire family.

See more events on pages 47-65.

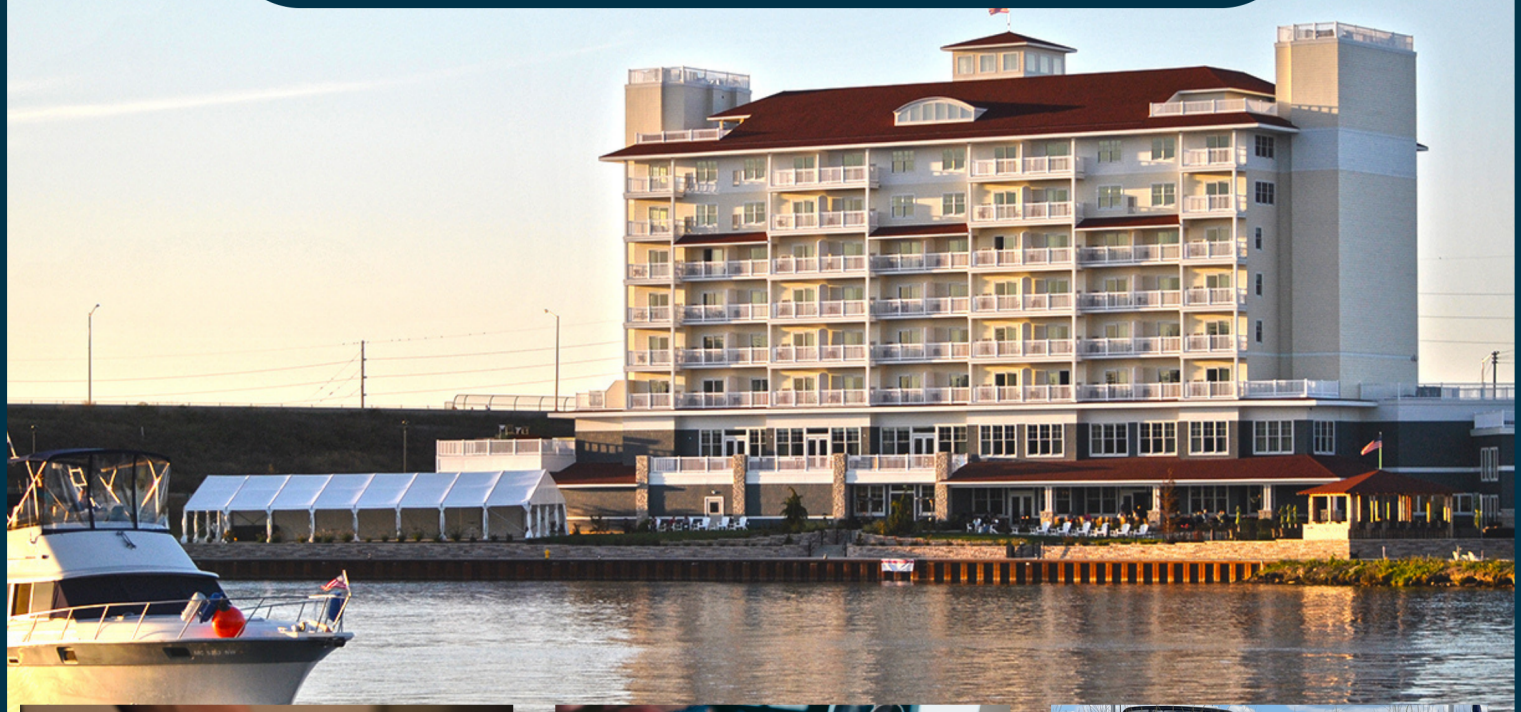
LOVE CREEK NATURE CENTER

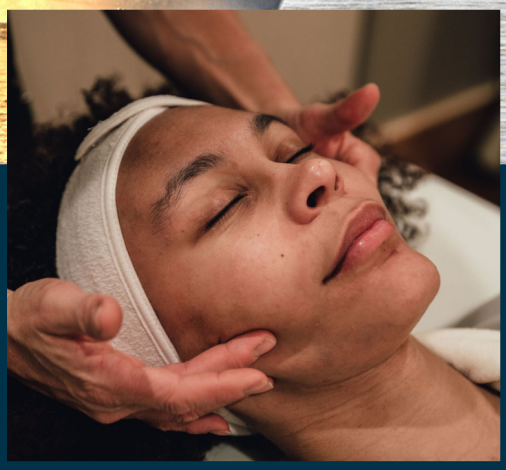
BERRIEN CENTER

10 Free Things to do in Winter

1. Admire nature's artistry on our Lake Michigan beaches with the frozen lighthouses, ice and sand formations and picturesque sunsets.
2. Go sledding, snowboarding and snowshoeing at Warren Dunes State Park in Sawyer.
3. Walk or snowshoe scenic trails along rivers, vineyards and woods.
4. Go running on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. Start and end at River St. Joe Brewery. All ages and levels are welcome.
5. Immerse in the magic of Light Up the Bluff displays in downtown St. Joseph from early December to mid-February.
6. Celebrate the season at holiday and ice carving festivals from early December to early February.
7. Visit Santa's House in St. Joseph on weekends in December.
8. Ride fat tire bikes over the wintry terrains on Lakeview Bike Trail in Benton Harbor and Andrews University Trails in Berrien Springs.
9. Inspire your creativity by playing the Creative Connections challenge.
10. Learn stories about our region's fascinating past at our museums.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN'S PREMIER RESORT DESTINATION





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SPRING IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

A TOP SPRING MICHIGAN DESTINATION

Ahhh, spring in Michigan. It is our vibrant, always-changing season when winds whoosh through our dunes, and then turn into gentle breezes wafting the sweet fragrance of pastel blossoms from our orchards and vineyards. Spring in Southwest Michigan is when ice formations slowly dissolve along our Great Lake's shore and the waves roar to life, pounding our beaches and dousing our lighthouses. Yet, moments later, the Lake becomes a rippling mirror reflecting the crimson-gold of another glorious sunset. The days are longer and warmer. Songbirds return. And once again, we get a grip on our golf clubs, bike handles, fishing poles and kayak paddles, and we refresh.

Spend your spring break in Michigan! If you need spring break ideas in Southwest Michigan, it costs very little to make memories at the Silver Beach Carousel, the Curious Kids' Museum and Discovery Zone, soaring kites on our beaches and playing Marco Polo in our hotels' indoor pools.

Then come back to witness an explosion of flowers in April and May. The Blossomtime Festival in Benton Harbor/St. Joseph celebrates this colorful time with The Grand Floral parade. In May there is the Compass Music Festival in Whirlpool Centennial Park followed by the Senior PGA Championship presented by KitchenAid. You'll find fresh-snapped asparagus in our roadside farm markets and crinoids and beach glass peeking up through the sand.

The Christmas Tree

The Areas Year round Christmas Store
with Gifts for Everyday Occasions too!

(269) 849-3360

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Left at the blinking light.

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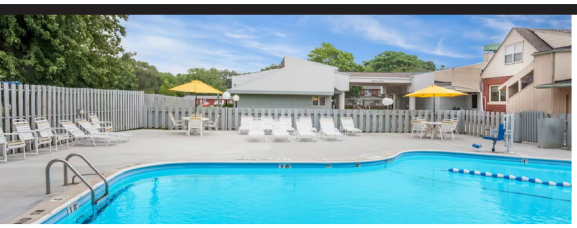

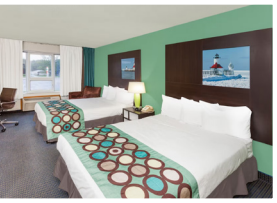

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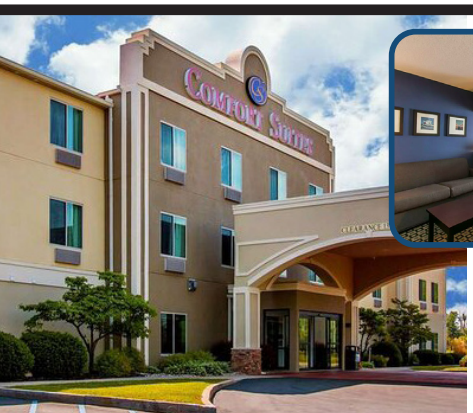

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SPRING BLOOMS WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUN

Spending spring in Southwest Michigan is sure to be full of activity. Here are some favorite annual spring events:

SPRING EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

March: March Mannequins brings storefront windows to life in downtown St. Joseph while community volunteers pose perfectly still, like mannequins.

May: The biannual KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship brings professional golfers and fanatics to Harbor Shores Golf Club. Come watch the action for yourself.

May: Blossomtime Festival is Michigan's oldest and largest multi-community festival. Celebrate our spring beauty with the Miss Blossomtime Pageant, The Grand Floral Parade and Run for the Buds.

May: The first Farmers Markets and Antiques on the Bluff events happen along Lake Bluff Park that will continue throughout the summer.

FUN-FOR-EVERYONE OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Rock and fossil collecting: Find unique pieces of our landscape and history along the shore. Read our rockhounding blog for tips.

Fishing: Cast a line and come home with sunfish, bluegill, crappie, steelhead or walleye.

Golf: Choose from several courses fit to your skill level. Starting in May, get tee times on courses that are fun to play. One of your choices is Harbor Shores, the biennial site of the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship. Read more on page 52.

Hiking: Get steps in, clear your head, be one with nature, see wildlife reawakening – really the reasons to hike are endless. In our region, we have a couple hundred miles made to roam with varying views!

10 Free Things to do in Spring

1. Roll down the windows as you drive by acres of pastel-colored orchards on a blossom tour — breathe in the sweet fragrances.
2. Fly kites and find beach glass, fossils and colorful stones tossed up by the waves along Lake Michigan beaches.
3. Paddle for hours in your kayak, canoe or SUP on Southwest Michigan's rivers and lakes.
4. Hike scenic trails in the dunes, vineyards, woods and along rivers.
5. Picnic, play outdoor games and on playgrounds at city parks.
6. Ride bikes through St. Joseph's Victorian-era neighborhoods, along waterfronts and over the rolling hills of our verdant vineyards and orchards.
7. In early May, stake a spot along the Blossomtime Festival's Grand Floral Parade route between St. Joseph and Benton Harbor. This is Michigan's oldest festival.
8. See inspiring art at galleries throughout Southwest Michigan.
9. Discover the impact our area has made throughout history at our museums.
10. Spring offers exceptionally vibrant Lake Michigan sunsets — get front-row seats on our beaches and bluff parks.

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SUMMER IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

One of Michigan's Best Summer Vacation Destinations

Everything about Southwest Michigan is made for summer. The refreshing, clear waters of Lake Michigan, miles of soft, golden sand beaches, towering dunes and fun-filled lake resort towns. Here, you can spend one day sailing, touring a century-old lighthouse the next, decorating sandcastles with beach glass and crinoids the following afternoon and playing sand volleyball until sunset.

There are inland lakes for boating, swimming and fishing, and rivers and streams for paddling. You can hike or bike along shaded trails. Go from farm to farm picking fresh fruits, vegetables and flowers in the orchards, fields and vineyards, or from wooden crates in our markets.

When you're hungry, dine alfresco or inside cool restaurants overlooking beautiful waterfront, quaint town and country vistas. Fill several summer days tasting the liquid artistry of our local craft wine, beer, cider and spirits found along our Makers Trail. Listen to live music in our parks. Applaud talented actors in our lakeshore theaters. Play golf on beginner to championship-level greens, or claim bragging rights on miniature golf and disc golf courses.

Bring the children to splash in Whirlpool Compass Fountain, ride our magnificent Silver Beach Carousel or explore STEM exhibits for hours in our Curious Kids' Museum and Discovery Zone. Leash your dog and visit pet-friendly wineries, stores, trails and beaches.

As night draws near, pause to watch our blazing scarlet and orange sunsets — there is a hush that spreads across the region as the sun slips beneath the horizon. For a rare breathtaking experience — drive to our International Dark Sky Park (one of three in Michigan) — and gaze up at a sea of stars and planets after dark. Summer is a great time to make a wish on a shooting star.

SPECIAL SUMMER EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

Summer is our get-together time of year. Every month, there are local gatherings including these annual activities, fairs and festivals:

JUNE

Lake Bluff Artisan Fair: St. Joseph | Select Saturdays | Over 50 vendors offer an eclectic array of handcrafted goods for your home and cottage decor, furniture, jewelry, candles and more. Shows also are held monthly in July, August and September; see the events calendar for additional dates.

Friday Night Concert Series: John E.N. Howard Bandshell, St. Joseph | Free, live music by regional performers. Groove to the sounds of jazz, big band, classic hits and more while overlooking the St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan. Additional concerts are held in July, August and September.

Lest We Forget Reenactment: St. Joseph River, St. Joseph | This annual event salutes the women and men who have served in our armed services since World War I, educating all ages with battle re-enactments, presentations by Medal of Honor recipients, aircraft and boat rides and displays.

Farmers Market: St. Joseph | Saturdays, mid-June through mid-October | Discover what is fresh each week from local farms, including fruits, vegetables, cheeses, meats, coffees, flowers and more.

Makers Trail Festival: Weko Beach, Bridgman | Second Saturday | Live music, local food and Southwest Michigan craft beers, wines, ciders and spirits at this Lake Michigan beach party for the whole family.

JULY

Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff: St. Joseph | Second weekend | One of the top juried outdoor art shows in the U.S. — over 170 artists from across the country sell their paintings, pottery, textiles, photography and more in this gorgeous setting overlooking Lake Michigan.

Mike Yore Memorial Car Show: St. Joseph | View 150 classic cars lining the bluff.

AUGUST

Chalk the Block: St. Joseph | First weekend | Watch regional, national and international artists create amazing pictures on the streets of St. Joseph.

Berrien County Youth Fair: Berrien Springs | Third week | This family-friendly event fills your day with midway games and rides, food, exhibits and grandstand entertainment.

10 Free Things to do in Summer

1. Splash in Whirlpool Compass Fountain.
2. Relax at Rocky Gap County Park.
3. Every Saturday at dusk, July-August you can watch a family-friendly movie under the stars. Locations vary so check **stjoetoday.com/movies**
4. Watch the sunset at Lookout Park, one of the best views of Lake Michigan.
5. Explore the arts at Krasl Art Center and the Box Factory for the Arts.
6. Chalk the Block has artists turn the downtown streets of St. Joseph into a chalk masterpiece.
7. Walk the John and Dede Howard Family Trail.
8. Go for a hike at Galien River County Park.
9. Enjoy free concerts every Wednesday at noon June-August at the John E. N. Howard Bandshell.
10. Go inside the St. Joseph North Pier Lighthouse.

TALL SHIP MJ ST. JOSEPH

FALL IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Why Southwest Michigan is Your Best Fall Vacation Destination

When the summer crowds dwindle after Labor Day Weekend, Southwest Michigan catches its breath but not its simple joys vibe. The air and water temperatures are still warm in early September, so don't think your beach days are over. It's just easier to find places to stake your spot on the sand and there are far fewer people to make footprints around as you stroll along the shore.

As the weeks roll into October, Lake Michigan's waves lap the sand one day and then roar wildly with frothy white caps the next. It's exhilarating to be here during this freshwater sea's changing moods.

But the best reason to vacation here is for the color shows that start at our century-old family farms, spill into our markets and pour into our wine, beer, cider and spirits glasses. Then, from mid-October to early November, the cooler days and crisper nights drench our hardwood forests and dunes in jewel-toned amber, ruby, orange garnet and brown topaz foliage. You won't drive a road, stroll a city sidewalk, comb a beach, hike a trail, golf a fairway or paddle a river without our stunning color displays surrounding you.

Fall will easily become your favorite season in Southwest Michigan!

SPECIAL FALL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

You will find lots of ways to enjoy this fun-filled season between September and November. Here are a few favorite festivals and events:

September-Early October: St. Joseph Farmers Market is your Saturday source for fresh-picked fruits and vegetables, fall flowers and decorations, locally sourced meats and cheeses and more. Antiques on the Bluff, held on the first Sunday of the month, features more than 50 vendors and their treasures.

September-November: Check the list of events for the dates of The Speaker Series that brings national and international political and scientific leaders, actors, writers and more to The Mendel Center. You can also catch music concerts, symphony orchestra performances, plays and acrobatic or comedian shows at The Mendel Center, Twin Cities Players, The Acorn and Four Winds Casino with ticket prices that fit most vacation budgets.

September: South Haven hosts its annual Antique Engine & Tractor Show, one of the largest in the state, at the Michigan Flywheelers Museum. And Fall Fest in St. Joseph is a must-attend with its petting animals and Pumpkin Festival.

October: Dowagiac also hosts the Under the Harvest Moon Festival and you also can find several spook-tacular Halloween-themed events in and around St. Joseph.

STOVER'S FARM MARKET
BERRIEN SPRINGS

GALIEN RIVER COUNTY PARK
NEW BUFFALO

HELPFUL HINT

Scan to view the Southwest Michigan Fall Color Guide

Spectacular Fall Color Routes

Be awed by our miles and miles of jewel-toned shore and countryside. Nature splashes then drenches our dunes, forests, vineyards, orchards and fields in jewel-toned hues in autumn. You'll see ruby reds, citrine yellows, garnet oranges and emerald greens. While you are in our region, you won't drive a road, paddle a river or stream, walk along our sidewalks or comb our beaches without seeing a color display. Breathtaking vistas are everywhere in Southwest Michigan.

8 Free Things to do in Fall

1. Take a fall color tour
2. Hike scenic trails
3. Walk along uncrowded beaches
4. Paddle your way through autumn's beauty
5. Bike trails beneath brilliant foliage
6. Explorer our creativity
7. Learn about our fascinating past
8. Stay over and enjoy a free gorgeous sunset on Lake Michigan

THINGS TO DO

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN EVERY SEASON

There is never a boring day in Southwest Michigan. No matter your age, the things you like to do, the new activities you want to try or the time of year — you can pack your day with what you love best. Outdoors, the water and woods are your playgrounds. A slew of popular attractions transport you back in time, performances stir your soul and carousel rides keep you laughing. If shopping is your passion, the thrill of the hunt for antiques to the newest fashions awaits.

IT'S ALL HERE

From outdoor & recreation, to attractions, shopping and entertainment... it's all here waiting for you!

RIVER ST. JOE - BUCHANAN

OUTDOOR AND RECREATION

Go Outside and Have Fun All Year

There is no shortage of ways to play outside in Southwest Michigan. And that applies to all ages! Each season offers several ways to take in the beautiful scenery while boosting those endorphins and getting fresh air. In the winter, enjoy snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, sledding and fat tire biking. Spring and summer boast thrilling bike rides, swimming, sailing, hiking, kayaking and even surfing for those brave enough to try something new. And fall, a vibrant and colorful moment in our region, offers the chance to do much of the above while surrounded by a canopy of changing leaves. Find something perfect for you and your crew, and enjoy the outdoor recreation in Southwest Michigan.

Biking

Southwest Michigan is a known destination for outdoor enthusiasts, and cyclists aren't to be excluded. If you are looking for a fun or challenging ride with beautiful scenery, below are some of the best local mountain bike trails in Southwest Michigan to add to your itinerary.

Mountain biking doesn't need to be an extreme adventure until you're ready for it — and we have the perfect easy, but fun, trails on which to get started

Kal-Haven Trail State Park
Bailey St, South Haven

Love Creek County Park & Nature Center
9292 Huckleberry Rd, Berrien Center

Dr. T.K. Lawless County Park
15122 Monkey Run St, Vandalia

Chikaming Mountain Bike Trail
8120 Warren Woods Rd, Three Oaks

Andrews Trails
Campbell Dr, Berrien Springs

Whirlpool Lakeview Bike Trail
750 Monte Rd, Benton Harbor

HELPFUL HINT

Rent a variety of bikes at Scooter Joe's Wheel & Water Rentals in St. Joseph, Rock 'n' Road Cycle in South Haven ,Uncle Jib's New Buffalo Beach Rentals or Pedego Electric Bikes in New Buffalo

Kayaking

There is no better way to explore not only Lake Michigan's coast, but interior waterways around our region than by kayaking Southwest Michigan! From the big lake and rivers winding by breweries to creeks and inland waters, there is much to see while paddling. Take in the nature around you and those rippling surface reflections. Here are some of the best places to kayak:

LAKE MICHIGAN WATER TRAIL
New Buffalo to South Haven: 50 miles of coastline that offers some of the most amazing scenery — magnificent dunes, lighthouses, wilderness, beach towns where you can shop and catch a bite to eat and stunning sunsets. Popular places to launch are New Buffalo Beach, Warren Dunes State Park in Sawyer, Weko Beach in Bridgman, Lions Park/Silver Beach/Tiscornia Beach in St. Joseph, Jean Klock Park in Benton Harbor and Deerlick Creek Park in South Haven.

The waves can change quickly from mirror-smooth to dangerously wild. Always check the weather and wind conditions before paddling; wear a properly fitting life jacket; and if you are a beginner, stay close to the shoreline.

GALIEN RIVER MARSH TRAIL
Approximately a six-mile stretch on the river that starts at Glassman Park in New Buffalo Township and ends at the City of New Buffalo's boat launch. This is an easy river to paddle upstream and downstream. The best viewing of wildlife is in the early morning and evening.

SISTER LAKES AREA
Dowagiac & Edwardsburg: The calm inland waters in the Sister Lakes area are ideal for stand-up paddle boarding. You can paddle from sunrise to sunset on Magician Lake, Dewey Lake, Indian Lake, Pipestone Lake, Cable Lake, Big Crooked Lake, Little Crooked Lake and Round Lake. But one of our favorite paddles is starting at the Christiana Creek Paddling Launch near Edwardsburg and then doing one, two or all three of the interconnected lakes — Juno Lake, Christiana Lake and Painter Lake.

WHERE TO LAUNCH

We have several kayak launches throughout Southwest Michigan. Some of them are a little more established than others, while a few are simply right off the sand of our beaches. Here are a few popular spots:

Carronde Park Access: This St. Joseph River launch site is on Riverbend Dr, Benton Harbor.

Galien River Access: Red Arrow Highway, East of New Buffalo

Paw Paw River Riverside Access: On Coloma Road, this launch is handicap accessible with a mechanism to help slide into the kayak and lower into and out of the water!

St. Joseph River Access: Niles Boat Ramp – Niles

KAYAK RENTAL

Doe-Wah-Jack's Canoe Rental in Dowagiac lets you explore the beautiful and historic Dowagiac River.

Scooter Joe's Wheel and Water Rentals in St. Joseph is your downtown source for kayaks and canoes, pontoon and jet ski rentals to get you on the water. Paddlers can launch from the Inn at Harbor Shores location on the inner harbor or have your group take the free shuttle to a launch site up the Paw Paw River.

Third Coast Paddling offers single and two-person kayaks and stand-up paddleboard rentals so you can explore Lake Michigan and the Paw Paw River in Benton Harbor/ St. Joseph and the Galien River in New Buffalo. If you want to take surfing or sandboarding lessons, check out their class schedule and rentals at Third Coast Surf Shop.

HELPFUL HINT

Scan the code to see many additional hiking locations.

Hiking

Our paved trails, boardwalks and well-worn paths take you along our Lake Michigan shores, into the woods and across our wide-open farmland. Many are ADA accessible so everyone can enjoy the outdoors.

The region's longest trail is the 34-mile Kal-Haven Trail State Park between South Haven and Kalamazoo. Sarett Nature Center and the Galien River County Park have walkways over the treetops. Your reward for hiking the dune trails in Warren Dunes, Grand Mere and Van Buren State Parks is seeing the jaw-dropping views of Lake Michigan.

Warren Woods State Park
Elm Valley Rd, Three Oaks
Wrapping along the Galien River, this state park is in Three Oaks. It offers 311 acres of nature preserve that is just seven minutes away from Warren Dunes State Park.

Warren Dunes State Park
12032 Red Arrow Hwy, Sawyer
Warren Dunes State Park provides 1,952 acres of recreational opportunities along Lake Michigan. The rugged dune formation rises 260 feet above the lake, offering spectacular views and is excellent for hang gliding. The park is home to 3 miles of shoreline and 6 miles of hiking trails and is open year-round.

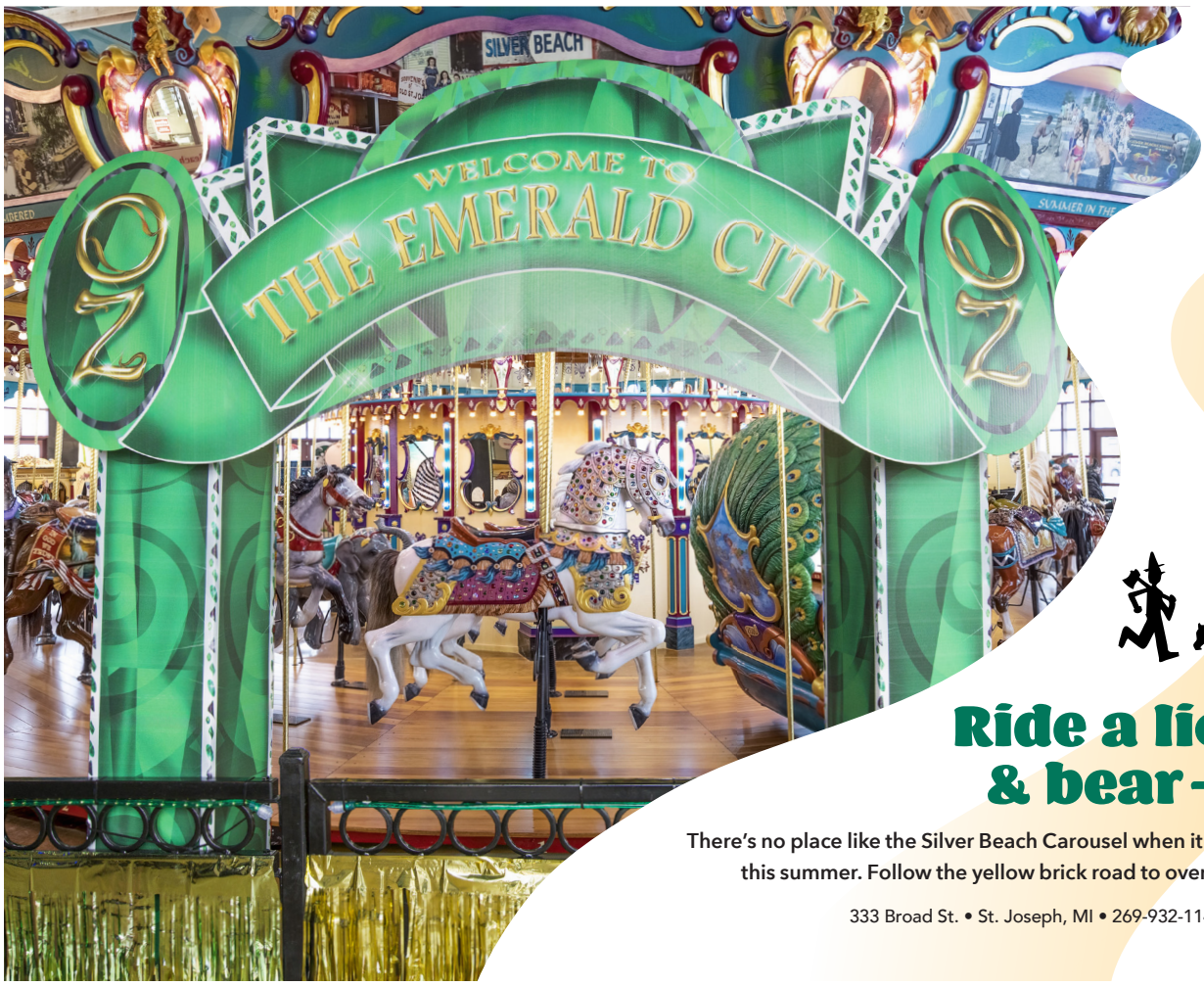
Grand Mere State Park
7337 Thornton Dr, Stevensville
Grand Mere State Park is characterized by magnificent sand dunes, deep blowouts and half a mile of Lake Michigan shoreline, accessible by the park's two trails. Two inland lakes lie behind the dunes in the undeveloped natural area.

Royalton Township Nature Trail
Bacon School Rd, St. Joseph
This year-round, wheelchair-accessible trail off Bacon School Road surrounds you with beauty for three-quarters of a mile. Wind your way through wooded ravines, by a pond, across wetlands, into an open prairie and down to the river during daylight hours. In the warmer months, bring a picnic and enjoy the fragrant tapestry of wildflowers.

Van Buren State Park
23960 Ruggles Rd, South Haven Charter Twp.
In the northernmost portion of our region, you'll find yet another dune-filled escape at Van Buren State Park. Walk along woodland trails or enjoy a picnic watching the sunset. This is also a popular spot for beach glass hunting, cross-country skiing and bringing your dog to enjoy the view.

Van Buren Trail State Park
23960 Ruggles Rd, South Haven and 57th Ave & Prospect St, Hartford
The 14-mile-long Van Buren Trail which makes up this state park runs between South Haven and Hartford. This multi-use trail has a dirt and gravel surface.

Kal-Haven Trail Sesquicentennial State Park
Bailey St, South Haven
If you're looking for a long hike to really get those steps in, then journey from South Haven to Kalamazoo without having to switch trails once. This 33-mile trail used to be a railroad bed, but now it's a route through several small towns and historical sites.



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Downhill Skiing

As part of your winter stay in Southwest Michigan, plan a day to enjoy the fresh air while swooshing down the slopes at Swiss Valley Ski & Snowboard Area in Jones, Michigan. Swiss Valley is open seven days a week and offers equipment rentals, a ski and board shop with a service center and on-site dining. For people new to downhill sports, Swiss Valley has a strong reputation in the region for being one of the best places to learn how to ski or snowboard.

Cross Country Skiing

Cross country more your style? Explore these snow-blanketed trails! Many of them offer ski rentals, too, if you don't have your own.

- Fred Russ Forest County Park
- Fernwood Botanical Gard & Nature Preserve
- Grand Mere State Park
- Harbor Shores Nature & Fitness Trail System
- Kal-Haven State Park
- Love Creek County Park *(rental equipment available)*

- Madeline Bertrand County Park *(rental equipment available)*
- MT. Tabor Trails
- New Buffalo Trails
- Sarett Nature Center *(rental equipment available)*
- Van Buren Trail State Park
- Warren Dunes State Park

Ice Skating

Strap on some skates zip around the ice. Our region has three ice skating facilities.

John & Dede Howard Ice Arena
If you enjoy ice skating, the John & Dede Howard Ice Arena is a great, family-friendly ice rink within the City of St. Joseph. The arena is a partially enclosed, refrigerated NHL-sized (200' x 85') outdoor rink. It has a Zamboni, skate rental, concession stand and warming shelter. Although the arena has open skate times, they are subject to weather conditions, so be sure to check the website news feed or contact the Ice Rink to inquire about weather-related closings.
2411 Willa Dr, St. Joseph
269-983-8795

THE GARDEN ICE ARENA
The Garden Ice Arena is a meticulously maintained facility offering a pristine surface for skaters of all levels. The Garden is not just a place for recreational skating. It offers a diverse range of activities to ignite your excitement, such as hockey, open skate times, ice bumper cars, and private parties. This indoor rink is fully enclosed, allowing year-round skating.
1626 W Glenlord Rd, St. Joseph
269-408-8295

SOUTH HAVEN ICE RINK
Located in downtown South Haven, this outdoor ice rink invites you to skate into the winter wonderland of Southwest Michigan. Don't worry though, a large pavilion overhead allows you to watch the snow without it falling on you. Thanks to that same roof, a winter storm and other weather conditions are rarely going to stop your fun! The rink also remains at a constant frozen temperature due to the coils underneath the ice. Rent skates, or bring your own, and enjoy winter fun.
546 Phoenix St, South Haven
269-639-1113

Fishing

Southwest Michigan is an angler's heaven. You can enjoy everything from deep-water fishing for 20-lb. salmon to smelt dipping. And there's always an excuse to go fishing, for you can fish all year 'round.

The variety of fish is what hooks many anglers on the area. If you just want to enjoy the ride and the fresh catch, or if you like the sport of deep-water fishing on Lake Michigan but don't have the gear, the area has several licensed professional fishing charter captains. A charter association survey indicates that 92% of the anglers catch fish, which means you'll probably bring home more than great stories.

Lake Michigan and the rivers that open into it are well-known for their coho, salmon, steelhead, Chinook salmon, and brown trout. Most catches range from 5-20 lbs, although Chinook salmon can weigh in at 30 lbs. Other catches include smallmouth bass, perch, smelt, walleye, pike, catfish, crappy, sucker, and bluegill. Inland lakes and streams are favorite fishing sites for panfish, northern pike, bass, musky, and brown trout. A fishing license is required and is available at most sporting goods stores and bait shops.

Rainy Day Opportunities

While there isn't much that compares to a sunny day in Southwest Michigan, occasionally Mother Nature doesn't want to cooperate. Below is a list of activities that will keep the whole family dry and smiling on a rainy day.

Curious Kids' Museum - Play and learn with over 100 hands-on exhibits and activities. Curious Kids' Museum is fun for kids of all ages and offers visitors an opportunity to experience the world around them using each of their senses. The exhibits are constantly changing to provide new and unique learning opportunities so you never know what you'll discover next. Admission is just $6 per person or $10 for joint admission to both the Museum and Discovery Zone.

Makers Trail - Taste the craftsmanship and sip on award-winning craft beverages from the Makers Trail artisans. Stay dry in one of the many taprooms while discovering Southwest Michigan's craft breweries, wineries, cideries and distilleries. Learn more on page 70.

Water Street Glassworks - A trip to the Benton Harbor Arts District is sure to bring out your inner artist. Water Street Glassworks offers a variety of classes in the glass and metal arts. Learn how to turn molten glass into a beautiful work of art, create one of a kind jewelry out of beach glass, or let the sparks fly while crafting a metal garden sculpture. Classes are offered for all ages and experience levels and do sell out quickly. If you're not looking to create but still want to be inspired by the arts, stop in to peruse the Doris Akers Gallery located in the historic Hinkley Building.

Krasl Art Center - Keep the creative juices flowing with a trip to the Krasl Art Center. Open seven days a week and free to the public, Krasl Art Center offers visitors the chance to experience art exhibitions and installations created by artists from around the world. You can take a stab at making your own masterpiece by signing up for one of their many classes and workshops. The Shop at the Krasl Art Center also offers one-of-a-kind gifts, jewelry and decor.

The Acorn - Prepare to be entertained when you visit the historic Acorn Theatre - a live performance venue located in the heart of downtown Three Oaks. The theatre hosts performers from all genres including rock, folk, comedy and open mic nights, among others. Be sure to stop at Journeyman Distillery and the Staymaker Restaurant for handcrafted cocktails and delicious food before the show.

Silver Beach Carousel - While the rain may not be ideal for a beach day, don't miss out on the chance to take a spin around the iconic Silver Beach Carousel. Rides start at just $3 per token and are even less if you buy in bulk. While you're inside shop for souvenirs at the Brass Ring Gift Shop and discover a piece of history at the Silver Beach Amusement Park Museum. Open your umbrella and walk across the street to Silver Beach Pizza to dine on the Carousel Pizza named in honor of the iconic figurines spinning next door.

NATURE CENTERS & PRESERVES

See Nature Close Up

Southwest Michigan knows the importance of protecting our priceless natural areas for the future. Nature centers and preserves safeguard our woods, prairies, marshes, bogs and Lake Michigan shores from development. Come observe wildlife, birdwatch, photograph wildflowers, snowshoe and feel at peace.

Love Creek County Park & Nature Center
Love Creek County Park & Nature Center features over 100 acres of meadows, forests, marshes and creeks. Visitors will enjoy hiking and skiing over 5 miles of trails. Of that, 1.8 miles are designated snowshoeing trails. There are also 3.5 miles of groomed fat bike trails. Fat tire bikes are available for rent, including two children's bikes that were donated by Trek Bicycle of Granger. As of 2023, rental rates are $15 per hour or $25 for two hours, plus a daily $5 winter trail fee when the trails are groomed. Season passes are available, too. If there isn't enough snow to groom the trails, then there will be no trail fee charged. Children's fat tire bikes are always free to rent as long as an adult accompanies them.

An interpretive building offers a nature book shop, classrooms, a variety of displays and exhibits, and a popular wild-life observation window through which you can observe an assortment of birds and mammals throughout the year. Wildflowers are in bloom from April through October.
9292 Huckleberry Rd,
Berrien Center
269-471-2617

Sarett Nature Center
Sarett has over eight miles of trails meandering through the property. Our trail system includes boardwalks, observation platforms, and an easily accessible barrier-free walkway. Trails running along the Paw Paw River bluffs provide great views of the river valley below.
2300 N Benton Center Rd,
Benton Harbor
269-927-4832

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TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FUN IN THE SUN AND SAND

10 Best Beaches in Southwest Michigan

Beautiful, majestic Lake Michigan is a major draw to this area, with visitors enjoying splashing and swimming in its waters, boating, fishing, surfing, windsurfing, or para-sailing. The power Lake Michigan displays in storms is something to behold; and in winter, as ice piles up along the shoreline and drapes the lighthouses in glistening ice, the Lake presents yet another kind of breathtaking beauty, making a perfect photographic opportunity. But the lazy days of summer and early autumn entice most visitors to the shores of Lake Michigan. The sandy beaches are perfect for enjoying the sun, picnicking, or building sandcastles. Breezy days are ideal for flying kites on the beach, a delightful sight as they soar high against the backdrop of a clear blue sky. Many beaches have volleyball nets in place, making it easy to organize or pick up a game of beach volleyball. And everyone agrees that sunsets along the shores of Lake Michigan are truly breathtaking, a photographer's dream.

When enjoying the beaches of Southwest Michigan, we want you to keep in mind that alcohol is prohibited on all Berrien County beaches.

BEACHES

New Buffalo Beach
New Buffalo
Located within walking distance of downtown New Buffalo, is a popular destination year-round. Visitors can relax, sunbathe and swim at the beach, walk the dune-top boardwalk, enjoy the play structure, savor the snack bar and fish Lake Michigan and the Galien River. In the winter, guests marvel at the accumulating ice on the piers and shoreline and can sled down the dunes.

Warren Dunes State Park
Sawyer
As a crown jewel among Michigan State Parks, you're about to encounter 1,952 acres of adventure and three miles of sandy shoreline. Come here once and you will return to these magnificent Michigan dunes repeatedly — and we invite you to do so all year because each season is enthralling.

Weko Beach
Bridgman
Nestled among 42 acres of picturesque, wooded dunes, Weko Beach offers guests a modern beach house, small craft boat launch, concessions and clean restrooms. Visitors can rent kayaks and stand-up paddle boards to experience the beauty of the 960-foot shoreline from the waters of Lake Michigan. A rambling boardwalk and two observation decks afford panoramic views of the lake and wooded dunes.

Grand Mere State Park
Stevensville
One of the hard-earned thrills is climbing up these steep, monstrous dunes, just to let gravity take over your sprint back down. And you repeat the fun again and again until it's time to leave.

Lions Park Beach
St. Joseph
Shade trees make it popular with young families. And with its easy access to the *John and Dede Howard Family Recreational Trail*, it's a popular launching point for walkers and bicyclists.

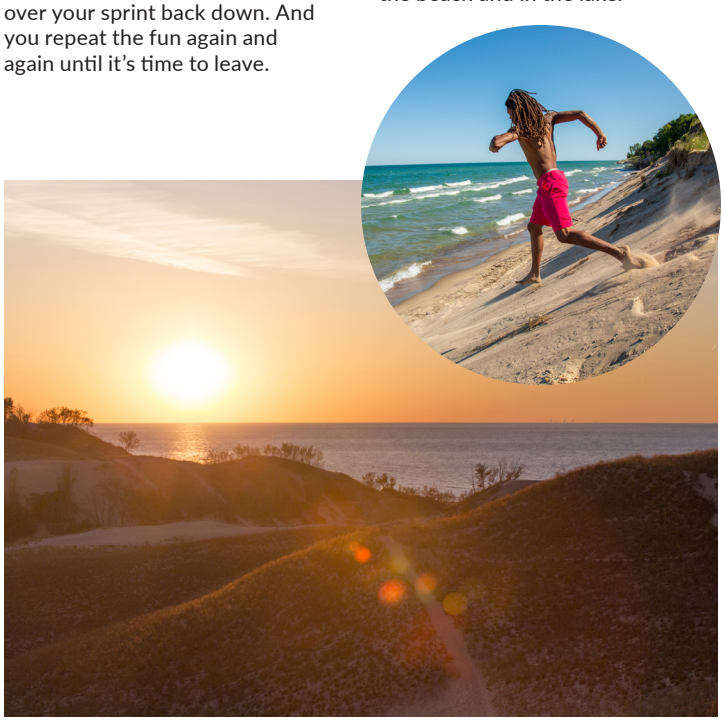
Silver Beach County Park
St. Joseph
2,450 feet of shoreline from the mouth of the St. Joseph River to Park Street. And it's walkable from downtown St. Joseph!

Tiscornia Beach Park
St. Joseph
A family-oriented park located on 16 acres along the shoreline of Lake Michigan at the northwest corner of St. Joseph. Walk to St. Joseph and Benton Harbor's iconic North Pier lighthouses.

Jean Klock Park
Benton Harbor
This beach features a paved lot, boardwalk, volleyball courts, observation tower, pavilion, bathhouse, concession area, playground, and picnic shelter.

Rocky Gap County Park
Benton Harbor
Overlooking Lake Michigan from a bluff in Benton Township, there is a spectacular panoramic view from the overlook deck.

Hagar Beach
Coloma
Enjoy a shaded picnic area with metal grills and playground equipment above. Leashed dogs are allowed both on the beach and in the lake.



THE NATURAL ROUTE

Exploring Southwest Michigan's Cannabis Collective

If Southwest Michigan is where you'll be visiting a dispensary for the first time, welcome! Here's what to know before you visit.

WHAT IS THE ATMOSPHERE LIKE IN A DISPENSARY?

Visiting a dispensary for the first time is nothing like the shady transactions Hollywood depicts because this is perfectly legal in Michigan. However, there are some procedures in place to ensure the security of the process. You'll likely see a security guard at the door to let you in. When you enter, you'll have to show your ID or Michigan Medical Marijuana Card.

WHAT DO I NEED TO HAVE WITH ME AT THE DISPENSARY?

If you are 21 years of age or older, you'll need your driver's license or state-issued ID. If you are between 18 and 21 years old, you'll need your driver's license or state-issued ID and your Michigan Medical Marijuana Card. You will also need cash with you to make purchases. You cannot use a credit card because recreational cannabis consumption is still federally illegal.

HOW DO I KNOW WHAT PRODUCTS TO GET?

If you are visiting a dispensary for the first time, know what outcome you are wanting. Most commonly, that result is relaxation; however, people can use cannabis as a natural remedy for pain relief, concentration, stress relief, sleep assistance, energy boost and more. The budtender will know which products and which strain to suggest based on that information.

WHAT ARE THE RULES I NEED TO FOLLOW WHEN I PURCHASE CANNABIS?

You cannot consume cannabis on-site unless there is a cannabis cafe specifically at the dispensary. Cannabis consumption should take place in your private residence, or, if you are visiting from out of state, in your hotel room. If you are staying in a hotel, we recommend purchasing edibles as there is no smoking allowed in hotels. Once you have consumed cannabis, you cannot drive while under the influence, so you should have a designated driver determined beforehand.

You can only take the products home with you if you live in Michigan. Even if you live in another state where recreational cannabis is legal, you cannot transport it over state borders or bring it to an airport.

You should go slow at first and wait for about a half hour to an hour for the cannabis to have reached its full effect on you before you consume more. Your budtender can offer guidance on this too based on the products you are purchasing, just ask!

Take the Natural Route today for remedy and relaxation, and discover our local dispensaries. A complete list of locations can be found at **swmichigan.org/dispensary**

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GOLFING SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Play Golf by Lake Michigan, Scenic Rivers and Orchards

Love to golf? Fuel your passion by playing in Southwest Michigan. For decades, big-name amateur and professional golfers have sunk breath-holding putts to win championships. But our sweet spot is our over a dozen golf courses that keep the game fun for learners and boost the confidence of players who strive each stroke to lower their scores.

BENTON HARBOR

Blossom Trails Golf Club - Family friendly course with 18 holes, plus a Par 3 course and full practice area. 269-925-4951

Harbor Shores Golf Club - This Jack Nicklaus designed course is home to KitchenAid Senior PGA Championships in 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2022, and 2024. 269-927-4653

Lake Michigan Hills Golf Club - Rated 4 Stars by Golf Digest, an 18-hole course with a Par 72. 269-849-4653

BRIDGMAN

Pebblewood Country Club - 18-hole public golf course. Golf on one of the oldest golf courses in the area, built in 1923. 269-465-5611

BUCHANAN

Brookwood Golf Course - A challenging 18-hole golf course famous for its character and challenge. 269-695-7818

DOWAGIAC

Hampshire Country Club and Dogwood Trail (36 holes) - The 18-hole Hampshire course offers gently rolling terrain, open front nine, wooded back nine. 269-782-7476

Spruce Ridge Golf Club - This 18-hole public course is laid out across 107-acres of rolling hills and tree-lined fairways, sure to challenge your game. 269-782-5827

EAU CLAIRE

Indian Lake Hills Golf Course - 27 holes on watered fairways with woods and orchards. 269-782-2540

Pipestone Creek Golf Course – Long open par-5s and a richly-wooded back nine make this the golf course for the rest of us. 269-944-1611

NEW BUFFALO

The Woodlands Course at Whittaker - Immerse yourself in nature as you take on woods, water, and sloping fairways. 269-469-3400

WATERVLIET

Paw Paw Lake Golf Course - A scenic Par 70 public golf course on the shores of Paw Paw Lake. 269-463-3831

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HARBOR SHORES

Lake Michigan

SILVER BEACH CENTER

Where History and Memory Making Go Hand in Hand

The Silver Beach Center is where history and memory making go hand in hand. The building — located below the bluff in downtown St. Joseph at 333 Broad Street — is home to the Silver Beach Carousel, Shadowland on Silver Beach and Curious Kids' Discovery Zone. One of the best year-round entertainment destinations, the Silver Beach Center is fun for all ages.

SILVER BEACH CAROUSEL

Make a lifetime of memories at the Silver Beach Carousel! Pick your favorite figure to ride from 48 magnificent, hand-carved figures and two chariots. Your heart will soar as you spin beneath 1,000 twinkling lights. Learn about the area's fascinating history from the 18 rounding boards circling above the carousel. Explore the fun-filled days of the Silver Beach Amusement Park (1892 to 1971) with the memorabilia filling the carousel house and attached museum. Or, grab a bag of fresh popcorn or cotton candy from the refreshment stand and listen to the happiest music on earth.

SHADOWLAND ON SILVER BEACH

This beautiful reception and meeting facility is just steps away from Silver Beach. Shadowland on Silver Beach is the perfect location for destination beach weddings and receptions in Southwest Michigan. The venue accommodates everything from small intimate gatherings to large weddings of up to 275 guests, with plenty of offerings to delight your guests on your special day.

CURIOUS KIDS' DISCOVERY ZONE

The Curious Kids' Discovery Zone entertains small children to fifth graders with its interactive climbing, water, tactile and traveling exhibits. It is a must-stop for exploratory fun. This space is geared for ages 1-10, but all are invited to come "play, learn, and be curious!" The kids will love the Lake Michigan Water Table, where they can sail handmade boats through the lake currents and lock system. Another favorite exhibit is the 25-foot Lighthouse Tower, encouraging little visitors to climb the wave steps to the top and gaze out the window to catch a peek of Lake Michigan. And check out Recollections, a wall-sized dance exhibit where light and color mimic your movements on the screen.

SILVER BEACH CENTER
ST. JOSEPH

10 Tips for Visiting the Silver Beach Carousel

No trip to St. Joseph is complete without riding the Silver Beach Carousel. This local landmark celebrates our amusement park past while bringing the Carousel tradition forward for generations to come! Before you plan your trip, here are 10 tips for making the most of your visit to the Carousel:

1. Buy your tokens in bulk
2. Make time to splash and eat
3. Save room for refreshments
4. Learn about the Silver Beach Amusement Park
5. Bring quarters
6. Stay updated on events on their Facebook page.
7. Plan ahead for parking
8. Bring the whole family
9. Shop the Brass Ring Gift Shop
10. Do you still have questions? Ask a volunteer!

SHOPPING THE REGION

Let the Hunt for Great Finds Begin

Our region is home to several small businesses, boutiques and chain department stores. Shop for locally handmade art and home decor, apparel to remember your time in Southwest Michigan, goods to add to your kitchen, keepsakes and stylish clothing that fewer people will have. In between all your activities, stroll through our charming downtowns and enjoy shopping in Southwest Michigan.

SEARCH FOR THE STARS

Dr. T.K. Lawless International Dark Sky Park and Michigan Dark Sky Preserve

Are you looking for an amazing tourism experience? Go stargazing at one of Michigan's three International Dark Sky Parks and an official Michigan Dark Sky Preserve. With no light pollution from cities or neighborhoods, you will see a spellbinding vista of our universe and its stars, planets, moons and nebulae. This is an inspiring date night, family activity or personal enrichment. You will want to stargaze at Dr. T.K. Lawless International Dark Sky Park again and again.

Dr. T.K. Lawless International Dark Sky Park
15122 Monkey Run St, Vandalia

Photo credit: Robert Parrish

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CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Earn Prizes while Enjoying the Arts & Culture of Southwest Michigan

Creative Connections encourages people to discover Southwest Michigan's creative side by visiting stops along the regional arts and culture scene. These include theaters, interactive museums, a carousel, galleries and more. What's in it for you? In addition to rich cultural experiences and lasting memories, you can earn unique prizes for visiting participating locations. Check in at each one to reach 3 prize levels.

Whether you live in Southwest Michigan or are looking for something to do during your stay, Creative Connections is the perfect activity for the whole family, a solo adventure or a group of friends. Make plans to visit some of the destinations, check out the work of local artists, learn about our history and collect stamps to earn prizes.

We're excited to see people embracing our arts and enhancing their vacations with our rich culture!

Visit swmichigan.org/creative to learn more.

HELPFUL HINT

Scan the code to find helpful FAQs, game instructions, program updates and more.

3 Prize Levels

Level 1: Visit 3 different destinations to complete.

Level 2: Visit 3 additional destinations to complete.

Hotel Level: Stay in one of our hotels after completing Level 1 or 2. Ask for a receipt to include as proof of your stay. Name on receipt must match name on creative license.

Grand Prize Drawing: Complete ALL three levels to be entered for a chance to win an all-inclusive two-night hotel package for two

creative CONNECTIONS
Art & Culture of Southwest Michigan

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COLOR YOUR DAY WITH MURALS

When you're hoping to paint the town, go instead to the towns that are already painted. Southwest Michigan's murals cover these lakefront communities! We are fortunate enough to have brushstrokes and painted personalities from renowned artists across the world right here. Put on your walking shoes and check out the stories these walls tell!

HELPFUL HINT

Scan the code to see murals and addresses to admire the local murals.

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MUSIC AND THEATRE

Let Us Entertain You

A GHOSTLIGHT THEATRE AND SMSO COLLABORATION

Whatever your taste in music, live theater, dance, or other entertainment, we have the place for you! You might want to take in free Friday night concerts and Wednesday Brown Bag concerts; or perhaps a Sunday concert presented by the St. Joseph Municipal Band would be more to your liking. It's free, too!

Clubs and cafes in Southwest Michigan are filled with the invigorating vibe of live music. Sandbar & Grille, The Box Factory for the Arts and The Livery in Benton Harbor feature local, regional, and national entertainment on a consistent basis. Many restaurants, cafes and wineries also offer weekend entertainment.

Now you can connect with the artists, actors, musicians and dreamers that call this area home.

BENTON HARBOR

The GhostLight Theatre -Located in the Benton Harbor Arts District, The GhostLight Theatre seeks to illuminate the arts and culture of SW Michigan through the Theatre Arts. It is a collaboration of local performing artists, business people, arts supporters, and enthusiastic audience members. 101 Hinkley St.

The Lake Michigan College Mendel Center - The region's premier location for events, weddings, meetings, and performing arts. The Mendel Center hosts more than 40,000 annual visitors. 2755 E Napier Ave.

BERRIEN SPRINGS

The Howard Performing Arts Center - An elite acoustical facility designed for the performance of classical music. The Howard has hosted several world-class performers from the international classical circuit. 4160 E Campus Circle Dr.

DOWAGIAC

The Beckwith Theatre Company - Its beginning dates back to the turn of the century. Productions include dramas, comedies, musicals, and even a bit of Shakespeare. 100 New York Ave.

NEW BUFFALO

Silver Creek Event Center at Four Winds Casino - Catch the greatest names in show business at Four Winds' Silver Creek Event Center. From rock to country to stand-up comedy, Silver Creek has a show for you. 11111 Wilson Rd.

ST. JOSEPH

Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra (SMSO) - Let the Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra fill your summer with iconic American melodies: from patriotic to cinematic, all on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Twin City Players - Formed in 1932, Twin City Players is a volunteer based nonprofit organization that strives to engage the community in quality theatre that changes lives and to be recognized for organizational excellence producing quality performances in southwest Michigan. 600 Glenlord Rd.

THREE OAKS

The Acorn - A rare and remarkable performing arts venue presenting high-quality, professional live entertainment. Performers of incomparable talent delight audiences year-round in an acoustically rich and unique space. 107 Generations Dr.

Vickers Theatre - Experience our intimate theatre and art gallery and enjoy a unique movie-going experience of independent, documentaries, popular movies, and foreign and foreign language films that will open your minds, enrich your lives and entertain your spirit. 6 N Elm St.

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THRILLS AWAIT

Area Attractions are Filled with Fun

Lake Michigan is our main attraction, but thrill seekers and adventurers might find a few more attractions exhilarating.

BENTON HARBOR

Eden Springs Park - You can visit the historic House of David amusement park. Miniature trains run on Saturday and Sunday in summer only, with special train rides three weeks prior to Halloween and Christmas. 793 M-139.

Hidden Pointe Fun Park - Seasonal, family-friendly spot for mini-golf & go-karts, plus batting cages & JumpShot basketball. 1062 Nickerson Ave.

BUCHANAN

Bear Cave & Resort - Bear Cave is the only cavern in the Great Lakes area. Along the 40 foot winding stairway that leads visitors through the cave you will see stalactites, petrified leaves, and other peculiar shapes. The cave measures 15 feet deep, four to six feet wide and 10-15 feet high and holds quite a bit of significant history. The cave is entered through the gift shop. It is open from May to October and there is an admission fee. Check for hours open. 4085 Bear Cave Rd.

HARTFORD

Hartford Motor Speedway - This dirt track speedway is Michigan's widest 3/8 mile oval. Friday night races run through the summer. 301 Bowie St

JONES

Swiss Valley Ski & Snowboard Area - Offering mixed terrain for all abilities, you can be sure to find yourself having a blast all winter long. 13421 Mann St.

NILES

Niles Scream Park - Considered by many to be one of the top haunted attractions in the country with 44 acres of blood-curdling fear! Open in September. 855 Mayflower Rd.

ST. JOSEPH

Curious Kids' Discovery Zone - Geared for ages 1-10 years, children have the opportunity to play, create and learn. It is located inside the Silver Beach Center. 333 Broad St.

Lumberjax Urban Axe Throwing - Test your skill or just blow off some steam with axe throwing, rage room, smash room, knife throwing, ninja stars, and Retro arcade. 2808 Niles Ave.

Tall Ship MJ - Sails will be intimate and comfortable as we are limiting passengers to 6 people. 800 Whitwam Dr.

Silver Beach Carousel - Pick your favorite figure to ride from 48 magnificent, hand-carved menagerie figures and two chariots. It is located inside the Silver Beach Center. 333 Broad St.

Slackers Family Fun Center & Laser Tag - The whole family will enjoy laser tag, bounce houses, arcade games, and billiards. 1155 Vineland Rd.

Southwest Michigan Cycleboat - Tour the St. Joseph inner harbor with up to 16 of your friends, family, strangers, or co-workers with our certified Master Captain. You'll make two stops at local bars/eateries. 800 Whitwam Dr.

SOUTH HAVEN

Lake Arvesta Farms - Southwest Michigan's premier water sports adventure park for the whole family! The 4-lake Aqua Park, world-class indoor and outdoor pickleball courts, and an 18-hole disc golf course means there's an outdoor adventure for everyone! 06464 Arvesta Dr.

Michigan Maritime Museum - The Museum displays exhibits related to the maritime history of the Great Lakes with an emphasis on items pertaining to the state of Michigan. 260 Dyckman Ave.

South Haven Speed Boat Rides - With twin 315hp engines, Stormin is the fastest passenger vessel in the Port of South Haven. You and your family will have a blast, running up and down the coast of South Haven. 345 Water St.

HELPFUL HINT

Scan the code for more attractions and details.

HIDDEN POINTE FUN PARK BENTON HARBOR

EXPLORE THE PAST AT OUR MUSEUMS

Children's Museums, Culture and History...We've Got It All

Museums are very important centers for learning about history, our communities, art, science and so much more. Not to mention you can interact with history in a hands-on way! Books and the Internet are great resources for education but there is something unique about seeing the real thing in person, physically touching an object or seeing a live demonstration. Being there makes things more memorable, substantive and reinforces, or at times, challenges what we have previously learned. There is such a wide variety of museums in Southwest Michigan.

Learn about our role in the Underground Railroad, Great Lakes lifestyle, African American Culture and much more at our history museums. If you have little ones, take them to select children's museums — where the education is geared toward their hands-on learning. There are a number of unique transportation and time period museums, too! Choose from maritime heritage, railroad industry, our amusement park history and even jump back in time to our region's earliest settlers.

You'll find that what makes Southwest Michigan so great is our expansive, fascinating past. Plan to stop at several of these museums on your next trip.

MUSEUM LOCATIONS

African American History & Literature Gallery
725 Broadway
Benton Harbor

Berrien County Historical Association
313 N Cass St,
Berrien Springs

Bloomingdale Depot Museum
215 W Spring St,
Bloomingdale

Curious Kids' Museum
415 Lake Blvd,
St. Joseph

Curious Kids' Discovery Zone
333 Broad St,
St. Joseph

Dowagiac Area History Museum
201 E Division St,
Dowagiac

Dr. Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum
903 Bailey Ave
South Haven

Edwardsburg Historical Museum
26818 Main St,
Edwardsburg

Heddon Museum
115 S. Front St,
Dowagiac

James E. Bonine House
18970 M-60,
Vandalia

Michigan Flywheelers Museum
06285 68th St,
South Haven

Morton House Museum
501 Territorial Rd,
Benton Harbor

New Buffalo Railroad Museum
530 S Whittaker St,
New Buffalo

Niles History Center
508 E Main St,
Niles

North Berrien Historical Museum
300 Coloma Ave,
Coloma

Pioneer Log Cabin Museum
400 S Broadway St,
Cassopolis

Siegfried H. Horn Archaeological Museum
Andrews University
9047 Old US 31,
Berrien Springs

The Heritage Museum and Cultural Center
601 Main St,
St. Joseph

The Mitten Children's Museum
246 Broadway St,
South Haven

The Old Rugged Cross Foundation
61041 Vermont St,
Pokagon

Underground Railroad Society of Cass County
18970 M-60, Vandalia

Learn While Earning Prizes

As you visit these important places to learn where we came from, check if they are destinations in our Creative Connections contest noted on page 40. If they are, grab a brochure and a stamp at the front desk when you visit. You'll earn fun, artsy prizes as you learn!

NORTH BERRIEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM COLOMA

FESTIVALS & EVENTS

CHECK OUT OUR LEGENDARY EVENTS

Besides our beach side views, thrilling dunes, delicious restaurants and bountiful agriculture, our region is brimming with so much activity from city to city. Explore our creative scene with art exhibitions, live music performances, plays and fascinating lectures. Or, stop by our popular annual events like Chalk the Block, Ice Fest and the Berrien County Youth Fair. Look for seasonal antiques and farmers markets along Lake Bluff Park in St. Joseph. These are just the beginning of a list of fun events to enhance your visit!

HELPFUL HINT

As you plan your vacation, be sure to look at these regularly updated events on our website.

CHALK THE BLOCK - DOWNTOWN ST. JOSEPH

HOT WINTER EVENTS

The Fun Continues All Winter Long

Cold and snow doesn't stop Southwest Michigan from hosting some the best winter a festivals and events.

CHILI TOUR – JANUARY 26

Warm up in downtown St. Joseph this January at the annual Chili Tour. Participating locations or "Chili Stops" will play host so you can try their best recipes. Get started at the St. Joe Today Welcome Center in downtown St. Joseph with a chili map. Then vote for your favorite chili.

Location: Begin at 301 State St
stjoetoday.com/chili

ST. JOE WINTER BEER FEST – JANUARY 27

St. Joe Today invites everyone 21 years and older to come out of hibernation and meet friends during the St. Joe Winter Beer Fest. Craft beer enthusiasts will enjoy sampling from local and regional Michigan breweries. Tickets are limited. Check website for updates and ticket information.

Location: Broad St and Lake Blvd
stjoetoday.com/beerfest

ICE FEST – FEBRUARY 2-4

The focus is on frozen water during St. Joe Today's Ice Fest as professional carvers creating their masterpieces from blocks of ice on downtown streets. Immediately following Friday night's carving session, the winter night will glimmer and glow with an amazing tower of both Fire & Ice on the corner of State and Pleasant.

Location: State St and Pleasant St. stjoetoday.com/icefest

MARCH MANNEQUINS – MARCH 8

Watch storefronts and windows of participating downtown businesses come alive during the annual March Mannequins event on March 8. Dozens of community volunteers will pose perfectly still, like mannequins. Event attendees can vote for their favorite window in the People's Choice vote.

Location: Downtown
stjoetoday.com/marchmannequins

2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Out of the Box Open Mic
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

January 6
Tony Orlando
Four Winds Casino, New Buffalo

January 14
Todd Galberth In Concert
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

January 16
Tuesday Evening Program
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

January 19-Feb 23
Fundraiser MINIATURES 2024: GIVE A LITTLE LOVE
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

January 19
Opening Reception for MINIATURES 2024
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

January 21
Sunday Music Series: Licorice Stick Brigade
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

January 26
Chili Tour
Downtown St. Joseph

FEATURED EVENT
St. Joe Winter Beer Fest
January 27
Downtown St. Joseph

January 27
Andrews University Wind Symphony Winter Concert & SMC Brass Band
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

January 28
Howard Center presents: Canadian Brass
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

FEBRUARY

February 2-4
Ice Fest
Downtown St. Joseph

February 2 - 4
30th Annual Ice Breaker Festival
Downtown South Haven

February 4
Howard Center Presents: Steve Green
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

February 7, 14, 21, 28
Out of the Box Open Mic from
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

February 9
FaceOff Event
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

February 10
Andrews University Choirs: Chasing Away the Blues
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

February 10
Extreme with special guests Living Colour
Four Winds Casino, New Buffalo

February 14
Valentine Dinner Cabaret with MOIPEI
The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor

February 15
An Evening with MOIPEI
The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor

February 20
Tuesday Evening Program
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

February 23
LIT
Four Winds Casino, New Buffalo

February 23
Simply Queen
The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor

February 24
The Four Seasons
Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra at the Heritage Museum, St. Joseph

February 25
Sunday Music Series: Aleksandra Kemble flute
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

MARCH

March 6, 13, 20, 27
Out of the Box Open Mic
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

FEATURED EVENT
March Mannequins
March 8
Downtown St. Joseph

March 8,
Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band
Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo

March 9
Tesla
Four Winds Casino in New Buffalo

March 9
Andrews University Symphony Orchestra concert
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

March 9
2024 Spring Artisan Fair
Union + Social, St. Joseph

March 14 - April 7
Elementary Community Art Show
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

March 14
Opening Reception for Elementary Community Art Show
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

March 16
St. Patrick's Day Scavenger Hunt
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

March 17
Red Hot Chilli Pipers (NOT the Peppers!)
The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor

Calendar of events continued on page 56

LOCATIONS

- Baroda
- Benton Harbor
- Berrien Springs
- Bridgman
- Buchanan
- Cassopolis
- Coloma
- Dowagiac
- St. Joseph
- Stevensville
- South Haven
- New Buffalo
- Niles
- Three Oaks
- Union Pier
- Watervliet

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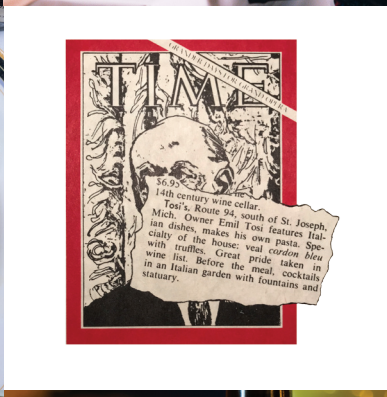
Join us as we celebrate this historic milestone of time-honored recipes, warm hospitality, and our continued drive for culinary excellence.

Tosi's

85 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

From the moment you walk past the lush Florentine garden, you'll begin to notice the aromatic artistry of freshly baked bread, simmering sauces, and fresh pasta made daily. No matter the celebration, this will be an experience you'll never forget.

For 85 years, Tosi's has embodied Emil Tosi's vision of authentic Italian cuisine set in the heart of a countryside kitchen. Come and experience quality that extends beyond our house-made pasta and sauces.



TIME

$6.9
14th century wine cellar.
Tosi's, Route 94, south of St. Joseph, Mich. Owner Emil Tosi features Italian dishes, makes his own pasta. Specialty of the house: veal *cordon bleu* with truffles. Great pride taken in wine list. Before the meal, cocktails in an Italian garden with fountains and statuary.

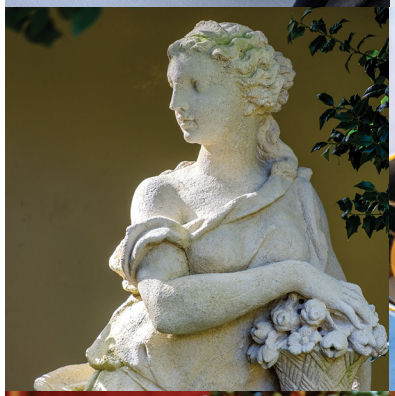
There's something for everyone from our fresh seafood to our hand-cut prime steak selection and our hand-made pizzas cooked over our wood-burning oven.

Emil's legacy you'll experience is one that begins each day with the freshest ingredients. A legacy of cooking over an open flame; of using sea salt, fresh ground pepper, a drizzle of olive oil and at times a little rosemary and fresh garlic to allow the natural flavors to shine through.

2023 Certificate of EXCELLENCE TRIP ADVISOR

Step into Tosi's Italian Counrtryside Restaurant you'll find a warm, welcoming place. We invite you to return again, and again, just like family.

Award Winning Bread and Desserts from Bit of Swiss



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THE 2024 KITCHENAID SENIOR PGA CHAMPIONSHIP RETURNS

Join us at Harbor Shores this Memorial Day Weekend Thursday, May 23 through Sunday, May 26

Southwest Michigan is gearing up for the return of the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship at Harbor Shores for the 6th time! This world-class event showcases the best in professional senior golf as well as our local communities. Harbor Shores, the only Jack Nicklaus Signature Course on Lake Michigan, is hosting this major Championship, which stimulates economic development, community building, and tourism. Join us May 23-26, 2024 to experience all-around family fun!

The PGA of America takes great pride in hosting the world's best at the Championship. This year will be special with some great storylines: Steve Stricker, the 2023 KitchenAid Senior PGA Champion and 2023 Charles Schwab Cup winner has never played Harbor Shores. The 2023 Charles Schwab Cup runner-up, Steven Alker, is returning to Harbor Shores where he won the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship in 2022! And, the two past Ryder-Cup captains, Stricker and Pádraig Harrington, will compete once again for the Alfred S. Bourne Trophy after facing off in a play-off at the 2023 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship. The PGA team in Benton Harbor works tirelessly to produce an exemplary event that showcases all that Southwest Michigan has to offer.

Ticket info for the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship

Tickets for the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship start at just $36 with various upgrades and discounts available:

Any Day "Flex" Ticket: **$36**

Any Day Flex 4-Pack (10 percent discount for four or more): **$126 ($31.50 each)**

Thursday or Friday Makers Trail 19th Hole Ticket (includes access to an upgraded pavilion behind hole #17 that features Southwest Michigan wine, beer, spirits, and cider): **$75**

Saturday or Sunday Makers Trail 19th Hole Ticket (includes access to an upgraded pavilion behind hole #17 that features Southwest Michigan wine, beer, spirits, and cider): **$85**

Champions Club (Single, daily ticket) - Upgrade hospitality venue with all-inclusive food and beverage on the 17th Fairway: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, OR Sunday - **$300**

Ultimate Golf Foursome (includes the Flex 4-pack plus a foursome of golf at Harbor Shores): **$736**

KITCHENAID SENIOR PGA CHAMPIONSHIP TICKETS

Scan the code to purchase tickets.

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THERE IS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE AT THE 2024 KITCHENAID SENIOR PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Kids Zone & S.T.E.M. Zone at Jean Klock Park

This area is a place for kids to enjoy age-appropriate activities such as inflatable hitting bays, bounce houses, crafts with YMCA professional staff, and much more. The area also features the S.T.E.M. Zone with interactive experiments and activities under the direction of the Curious Kids Museum and local high school robotics teams. Kids Day is Saturday, May 25th with special events planned throughout the day! All juniors, 15 and under, will be admitted into the Championship for free with an accompanying ticketed adult (limited to four minors per one ticketed adult).

KitchenAid Cooking Demonstrations

During the Championship, KitchenAid welcomes golf fans and foodies alike to interact with the brand in the KitchenAid Fairway Club. This large venue located in the Pure Michigan Courtyard is a place for fans to learn culinary techniques from the experts, ask questions, and be inspired to challenge themselves in the kitchen. Watch live cooking demonstrations by celebrity and local chefs in the KitchenAid Fairway Club, often with autograph and photo opportunities available. Demonstrations are held on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday; check the daily events schedule at the Fairway Club for start times.

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sharing a zest for life

Makers Trail 19th Hole

Returning in 2024 by popular demand is the Makers Trail 19th Hole, now overlooking the 17th green. Sponsored by the Southwest Michigan Tourist Council, the Makers Trail 19th Hole features local craft breweries, cideries, wineries, and distilleries. This upgraded covered pavilion offers comfortable seating, views of play, TVs to keep an eye on the action, and a relaxed atmosphere to enjoy specially crafted beverages. This venue has a dedicated local food truck and a beer garden to gather with your friends.

Discover the City of St. Joseph

• Charming small town
• Lovely beaches
• Shopping and dining
• Lake Michigan sunsets
• Century-old lighthouse
• Community family events

CITY OF St. Joseph
www.sjcity.com

Photos Courtesy Simply Laurie

SPRING EVENTS IN FULL BLOOM

Spring Brings New Opportunities for Fun

With the snow and cold fading away, only the memories made remain. Springtime in Southwest Michigan brings beautiful blossoms and more wonderful events and festivals to our region, such as the Blossomtime Festival, the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship and the Makers Trail Festival.

● BLOSSOMTIME GRAND FLORAL PARADE - MAY 11

The Parade begins in St. Joseph and continues its way through the city, across the Bicentennial Bridge and into Benton Harbor. The twin cities have been the host cities since the parade's inception in 1923. The Grand Floral Parade features over 120 units including bands, floats, clowns, costumed characters, antique cars and tractors, unicycle teams, equestrian units, and the famed Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motorcycle Drill Team.

Location: St. Joseph & Benton Harbor
blossomtimefestival.org

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MARCH

March 19
● **Tuesday Evening Program**
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

March 29
● **Andrews University Choirs: Easter Tenebrae**
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

March 31
● **SMS: Carla Trynchuk & Elena Braslavsky**
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

APRIL

April 3, 10, 17, 24
● **Out of the Box Open Mic**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

April 7
● **Howard Center presents: Wintley Phipps**
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

April 13
● **Andrews University Wind Symphony Spring Concert**
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

April 16
● **Tuesday Evening Program**
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

April 18 - May 5
● **Middle and High School Community Art Show**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

April 18
● **Opening Reception for Middle and High School Community Art Show**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

April 19
● **Jarabe Mexicano**
The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College, Benton Harbor

April 20
● **Andrews University Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert**
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

MAY

May 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
● **Out of the Box Open Mic**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

May 4
● **Fernwood Spring Garden Market**
Fernwood Botanical Garden, Niles

May 5
● **Antiques on the Bluff**
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

May 7
● **Andrews Academy Band & Bells Spring Concert**
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

May 9
● **Andrews Academy Orchestra & Choir Spring Concert**
Howard Performing Arts Center, Berrien Springs

May 10
● **Michigan Flywheelers Museum Farm History Day**
Michigan Flywheelers, South Haven

FEATURED EVENT
Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade
May 11
St. Joseph to Benton Harbor

May 11
● **Rhapsody in Blue**
Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra at the Mendel Center, Benton Harbor

May 17-19
● **Love Local Weekend**
Throughout Southwest Michigan

May 17 - July 7
● **The Michiana Annual Art Competition, MAAC**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

May 17
● **Opening Reception for The Michiana Annual Art Competition, MAAC**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

May 18
● **Farmer's Market**
Huron St. Pavilion, South Haven

May 21
● **Tuesday Evening Program**
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

LOCATIONS

- Baroda
- Benton Harbor
- Berrien Springs
- Bridgman
- Buchanan
- Cassopolis
- Coloma
- Dowagiac
- St. Joseph
- Stevensville
- South Haven
- New Buffalo
- Niles
- Three Oaks
- Union Pier
- Watervliet

FEATURED EVENT

KitchenAid® 2024 Senior PGA Championship

May 22-26

Professional golfers and spectators from around the world come to Benton Harbor for 5 days of championship golf

See pages 52-55.

May 24
Annual Blessing of the Fleet & Fish Fry
Michigan Maritime Museum, South Haven

May 24
Memorial Day Parade
Lake Boulevard, St. Joseph

May 25
Farmer's Market
Huron St. Pavilion, South Haven

May 25
Farmers Market
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

May 26 – September 4
(Weekends) Public Lighthouse Tours
Heritage Museum and Cultural Center, St. Joseph

JUNE

June 1
Lake Bluff Artisan Fair
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Farmers Market
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Farmer's Market
Huron St. Pavilion, South Haven

June 2
Antiques on the Bluff
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

June 5, 12, 19, 26
Farmer's Market
Huron St. Pavilion, South Haven

June 5, 12, 19, 26
Out of the Box Open Mic
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

Late June - Early September (Sundays)
St. Joseph Municipal Band
Performs at the John E.N. Howard Bandshell, St. Joseph

June 7
Australian Pink Floyd
Four Winds Casino, New Buffalo

June 7-8
Michigan Flywheelers Museum Flea Market/Swap Meet
Michigan Flywheelers, South Haven

FEATURED EVENT

Makers Trail Festival

June 8

Southwest Michigan's premier wine, beer, cider and spirits makers all in one place! A day full of sampling and enjoying live bands at Weko Beach in Bridgman.

See page 58.

June 8
Canine Obstacle Run
The Woods Fitness Park, Benton Harbor

June 14-16
Love Local Weekend
Throughout Southwest Michigan

June 14-16
South Haven Harborfest 2024
Water Street Marina, South Haven

June 15
43rd Annual Antique & Classic Boat Show
Michigan Maritime Museum, South Haven

June 18
Tuesday Evening Program
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

Calendar of events continued on page 60

WEKO BEACH
BRIDGMAN

MAKERS TRAIL FESTIVAL

Celebrate Southwest Michigan's Makers at Weko Beach, June 8

Each year, we look forward to popping corks, tapping kegs and pouring your favorite spirits 'til sunset. Come party with us at Weko Beach in Bridgman - with nothing but gorgeous Lake Michigan to the west - and Southwest Michigan's premier wine, beer, cider and spirits makers all in one place. This is the perfect chance for you and your friends to try new drinks or stick with your go-to favorites using beverage tickets purchased when you arrive. There will be live music and local food favorites, too. This annual event is the party of the summer, so don't miss out!

ENTRY TICKETS

Tickets to enter the festival go on sale May 1 online through Eventbrite.com and are $10 in advance, plus fees. Advance ticket sales close at 11:59pm on June 7.

A limited number of physical tickets will be available only at Bridgman Harding's Market. On the day of the event, you can purchase tickets at the gate for $20. Children 11 years old and younger get in for free.

Tips to Master the Makers Trail Festival

We want you to have the best time possible at this year's festival, so we're offering you our insider tips.

GET YOUR TICKETS IN ADVANCE

You have the choice of purchasing your tickets before the festival or at the gate on the day of. We recommend purchasing beforehand because you get a discounted price! Purchase tickets at the Bridgman Harding's for $10 each, online for $10 plus fees or at the festival for $20.

BRING CASH

This is a cash-only event, so please bring cash money to buy your drink tasting tickets ($1 each) and food from our vendors.

USE THE SHUTTLE

There will be free parking with free shuttles. Shuttles will run frequently throughout the event so you can come and go when you want. Parking locations will be just a couple miles away from Weko Beach at Eagle Technologies and AEP.

COME RAIN OR SHINE!

There will be plenty of room for you under the big tents. You're welcome to bring your own camping chairs, too.

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80TH ANNIVERSARY D-DAY REENACTMENT

The local Lest We Forget nonprofit organization educates the community about modern U.S. wars and pays tribute to the Americans who served in them. This year's FREE reenactments will be on June 22 at Tiscornia Beach, St. Joseph, and will recognize the 80th Anniversary of D-Day.

On June 6, 1944, Allied troops invaded the beaches of Normandy in northern France. Historians often refer to D-Day's successful assault on Nazi German soldiers as the beginning of the end of World War II.

Open to the public, the dramatic Normandy Invasion reenactment will be at 10 a.m. and a Pacific Island of Leyte invasion reenactment will start between noon and 1 p.m. Spectators can watch 150 to 200 re-enactors use World War II planes, watercraft, pyrotechnics, landing craft, B-24 flyovers and guns shooting blanks.

Buses will transport spectators to the beach from nearby parking lots. **www.LestWeForgetUSA.org**

SUMMER IS HERE

And the Time is Right

In Southwest Michigan, you'll find so many unique summer activities that you can't find anywhere else. Make it a part of your summer bucket list to see and do some of these activities while you're here!

62ND KRASL ART FAIR ON THE BLUFF - JULY 13-14

Krasl Art Center is thrilled to celebrate the 61st Art Fair on the Bluff. Experience the talent of over 170 artists from across the United States while enjoying the views and breezes of Lake Michigan and the charm and hospitality of St. Joseph at this ticketed event.

Location: Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph
krasl.org/art-fair

JULY

July -September
City of St. Joseph's Summer Movie Series (Saturdays)
Whirlpool Centennial Park, St. Joseph

July 3,
Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra to accompany the Firework Show
Shadowland Pavilion at Silver Beach, St. Joseph

July 3
Firework Show at Dusk
Silver Beach and Tiscornia Beach, St. Joseph

July 3
Light Up the Lake Fireworks at Dusk
South Beach, South Haven

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Farmers Market
Huron St. Pavilion, South Haven

July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Out of the Box Open Mic
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

FEATURED EVENT
Lake Breeze Music Festival
July 6
Shadowland Pavilion, St. Joseph

July 6, 13, 20, 27
Farmers Market
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

July 6, 13, 20, 27
Farmers Market
Huron St. Pavilion, South Haven

July 6-7
South Haven Art Fair
Stanley Johnston Park, South Haven

July 7
Antiques on the Bluff
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

July 12 - September 8
[Series 4] Art Show T.B.D.
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

July 12
Opening Reception for [Series 4] Art Show
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

July 13, 2024
Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra
Shadowland Pavilion at Silver Beach, St. Joseph

FEATURED EVENT
Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff
July 13-14
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

July 15-21
Van Buren Youth Fair
Van Buren County Fairgrounds, Hartford

July 16, 2024
Tuesday Evening Program at 7 pm
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

July 17, 24, 31
Wednesday Brown Bag Concert Series
John E.N. Howard Bandshell, St. Joseph

July 17, 24, 31
Wednesday Night Market
Court Place Plaza, St. Joseph

July 19
Mike Yore Memorial Car Show
Lake Boulevard, St. Joseph

July 19-21
Love Local Weekend
Throughout Southwest Michigan

July 19, 26
Friday Night Concert Series
John E.N. Howard Bandshell, St. Joseph

July 20
Lake Bluff Artisan Fair
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

July 20
22nd Annual Fish Boil
Michigan Maritime Museum, South Haven

July 27
Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra
Shadowland Pavilion at Silver Beach, St. Joseph

July 28-August 3
Cass County Fair
Cass County Fairgrounds, Cassopolis

LOCATIONS

- Baroda
- Benton Harbor
- Berrien Springs
- Bridgman
- Buchanan
- Cassopolis
- Coloma
- Dowagiac
- St. Joseph
- Stevensville
- South Haven
- New Buffalo
- Niles
- Three Oaks
- Union Pier
- Watervliet

AUGUST

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
● **Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra Pop Up! Concerts**
T.B.D.

FEATURED EVENT
Chalk the Block
August 2-4
Downtown St. Joseph

August 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
● **Friday Night Concert Series**
John E.N. Howard Bandshell, St. Joseph

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
● **St. Joe Farmers Market**
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
● **Farmers Market**
Huron St. Pavilion, South Haven

August 4
● **Antiques on the Bluff**
Lake Park Boulevard, St. Joseph

August 7, 14, 21, 28
● **Wednesday Brown Bag Concert Series**
John E. N. Bandshell, St. Joseph

August 7, 14, 21, 28
● **Wednesday Night Market**
Court Place Plaza, St. Joseph

August 7, 14, 21, 28
● **Farmers Market**
Huron St. Pavilion, South Haven

August 7, 14, 21, 28
● **Out of the Box Open Mic**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

August 8-11
● **National Blueberry Festival**
South Haven

August 10
● **Southwest Michigan Symphony Orchestra**
Shadowland Pavilion at Silver Beach, St. Joseph

August 10-11
● **Blueberry Festival Craft Fair**
Stanley Johnston Park, South Haven

August 16-18, 2024
● **Love Local Weekend**
Throughout Southwest Michigan

FEATURED EVENT
Berrien County Youth Fair
August 12-17
Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds, Berrien Springs

Calendar of events continued on page 64

● **CHALK THE BLOCK - AUGUST 2-4 -** This family friendly festival showcases a weekend of art in downtown St. Joseph. Attendees can watch as both amateur and professional artists prepare their squares on Friday evening, work all day Saturday, and enjoy the completed chalk masterpieces on Sunday.
Location: Downtown St. Joseph

● **BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR - AUGUST 12-17**

Come one - come all to the Berrien County Youth Fair. The theme for this year's fair is "Explore Planet Fair." This 78th year of the BCYF, highlights an exciting week for the youth of our area as they exhibit and show their animals, and display crafts, home economics projects, flowers, horticulture and much more.

Location: Berrien County Fair Grounds, Berrien Springs
bcyf.us

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TruDat Praise Festival - August 24

Each year thousands attend this outdoor Christian music festival with national headline artists. 2024 will feature We The Kingdom with Special Guest KB. Youngsters love the Kid's Zone with the bounce house, rock climbing and more. Come hungry because the food trucks will be lined up and ready for you.

Location: The grounds of Christ Lutheran School, Stevensville, MI
trudatministry.org

Photo credit: Russ Draper

Fall Festival - September 21

As the days grow cooler here in Southwest Michigan, the leaves begin to turn, spreading a blanket of beautiful crimson and gold across the landscape; and the final harvest of fruits and vegetables will be underway. It's time to celebrate at the St. Joseph Fall Fest.

Location: Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph
stjoetoday.com/fallfest

AUGUST

August 17, 31
Lake Bluff Artisan Fair
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

August 20
Tuesday Evening Program
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

August 23
Rock the Boat!
Michigan Maritime Museum, South Haven

FEATURED EVENT
TruDat Praise Festival
August 24
The grounds of Christ Lutheran School, Stevensville

August 31-September 1
All Crafts Fair
Stanley Johnston Park, South Haven

SEPTEMBER

September 1
Antiques on the Bluff
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

September 4, 11, 18, 25
Out of the Box Open Mic
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

September 5-9
Michigan Flywheelers Museum Antique Engine & Tractor Show
Michigan Flywheelers, South Haven

September 7, 14, 21, 28
St. Joe Farmers Market
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

September 7, 14, 21, 28
Farmers Market
Huron Street Pavilion, South Haven

September 13-October 27
[Series 5] Art Show
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

September 13
Opening Reception for [Series 5] Art Show
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

September 17
Tuesday Evening Program
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

September 20-22
Love Local Weekend
Throughout Southwest Michigan

FEATURED EVENT
Fall Festival
September 21
Downtown St. Joseph

LOCATIONS

- Baroda
- Benton Harbor
- Berrien Springs
- Bridgman
- Buchanan
- Cassopolis
- Coloma
- Dowagiac
- St. Joseph
- Stevensville
- South Haven
- New Buffalo
- Niles
- Three Oaks
- Union Pier
- Watervliet

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2627 Niles Ave, Saint Joseph
9:30am & 11:00am

Stevensville Campus
5767 Red Arrow Highway, Stevensville
9:30am & 11:00am

Eau Claire Campus
6550 Keigley St, Eau Claire
11:00am

Online @ www.myfirstchurch.com
Radio 94.9 9:30am

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FALL FESTIVAL
ST. JOSEPH

OCTOBER

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
● **Out of the Box Open Mic from 7-9 pm**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

October 5, 12
● **St. Joe Farmers Market**
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

October 5, 12
● **Farmers Market**
Huron St. Pavilion, South Haven

October 6
● **Antiques on the Bluff**
Lake Bluff Park, St. Joseph

October 18-31
● **Pumpkins on Parade**
Downtown St. Joseph & throughout Southwest Michigan

October 31
● **Halloween Trick-or-Treat**
Downtown St. Joseph &
Benton Harbor Arts District

October 31, 2024
● **Halloween Trick-or-Treat**
Downtown South Haven

NOVEMBER

November 2
● **Fernwood Holiday Market**
Fernwood Botanical Garden, Niles

November 6, 13, 20, 27
● **Out of the Box Open Mic**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

November 8, 2024-Jan 12, 2025
● **Annual Member Show**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

November 8, 2024
● **Opening Reception for Annual Member Show**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

November 22
● **Luminary**
Downtown St. Joseph

November 22, 2024-January 4, 2025
● **Lights at Fernwood**
Fernwood Botanical Garden, Niles

November 29
● **Holiday in the Park**
Dyckman Park, Downtown
South Haven

November 30, 2024
● **Small Business Saturday**
Throughout Southwest Michigan

DECEMBER

December 1, 2024-January 4, 2025
● **LIGHTS at Fernwood**
Fernwood Botanical Garden, Niles

December 4, 11, 18
● **Out of the Box Open Mic**
Box Factory For the Arts, St. Joseph

FEATURED EVENT
Merry & Bright Weekend
December 6-8
Downtown St. Joseph

December 6-8
● **Holiday Open House**
North Berrien Historical Museum, Coloma

December 7
● **Reindog Parade**
Downtown St. Joseph

December 7-23
● **Santa's House**
Downtown St. Joseph

December 8
● **Holiday Artisan Fair**
Union + Social, St. Joseph

December 31
● **New Year's Eve Celebration & Fireworks**
Downtown South Haven

FALL AND HOLIDAY TIME

The Best Time of the Year

Fall is harvest time, a crucial part of our region. It is a great time to traverse the country side viewing the beauty of the vibrant colored leaves. Head to area farms to pick apples or pumpkins. Stop in to a winery with a vineyard as the begin the next batch of wine. As the air gets crisp the holiday spirit comes alive with some wonderful memory-making events.

● MERRY & BRIGHT WEEKEND - DECEMBER 6-8

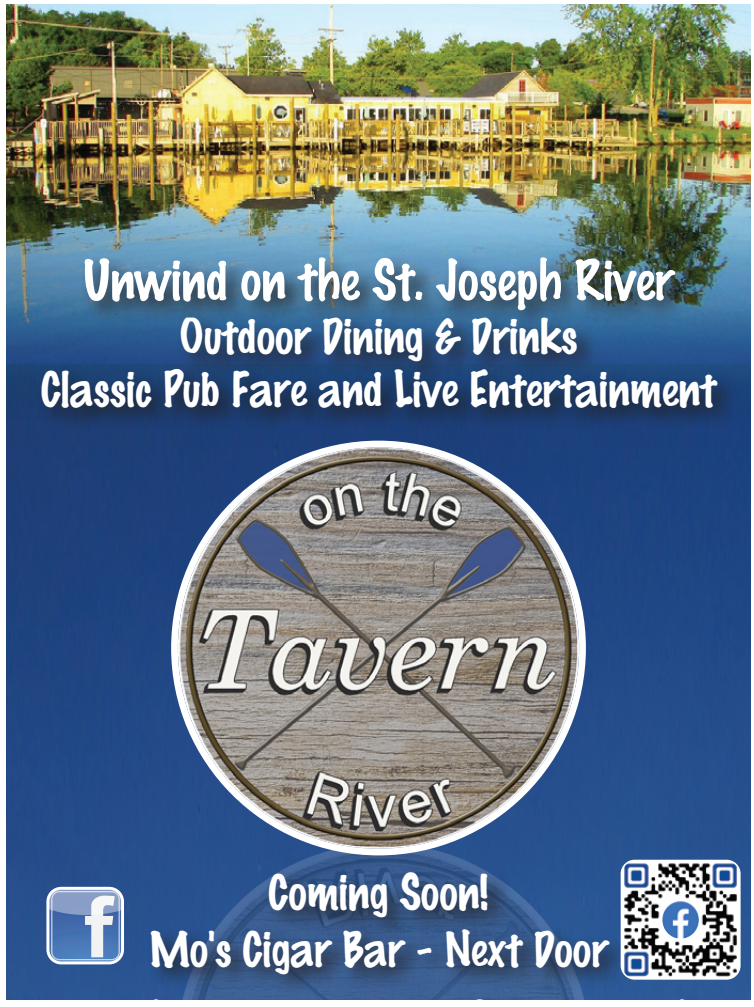
Getting into the holiday spirit is easy when you visit downtown St. Joe! Merry & Bright is a weekend of festive fun that features holiden events. Light up the Bluff will transform Lake Bluff Park into a winter wonderland. The St. Joseph High School Choir begins with Christmas carols followed by the tree lighting. The one million lights will remain on through Valentine's Day in Michigan's Most Romantic City. Attendees will enjoy extended shopping hours, events, special offers and more.

Location: Downtown St. Joseph
stjoetoday.com/merryandbright

● Reindog Parade - December 7

The annual Reindog Parade is a great time for all. This event features dressed up pets and their owners in a variety of holiday garb. Be prepared to see all kinds of costumes from "Santa Bernards" to "Reindeer Rottweilers" – definitely a must-see event! The event also marks the arrival of Santa. After the parade, children can share their wish lists with Santa at Santa's House.

Location: Downtown St. Joseph
stjoetoday.com/reindog



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FOOD & DRINK

SOMETHING FOR EVERY TASTE

From farm to table, family recipe book to community and chain eats to small-town flair, our food and drinks are the perfect opportunity to unwind by yourself or with loved ones. Choose from locations with a lake view and heated outdoor patios, to name a few. You can also grab a bite from our mobile food trucks or an eclectic cafe to start your day.

HAYMARKET BREWERY & TAPROOM - BRIDGMAN

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ST. JOSEPH

RESTAURANTS IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Local Ingredients Served by People Who Strive to Bring You Back

Southwest Michigan offers a long list of familiar franchised and chain restaurant choices. But how we excel on the culinary stage is our unique dining experiences that surpass your expectations.

Many of our chefs trained under renowned culinary artists in New York City and Chicago. They serve local craft beverages and create regionally inspired cocktails, small plates, entrees and decadent desserts from ingredients grown on nearby farms. Their menus feature vegetarian, vegan, all-meat, dairy- and gluten-free options. Ethnic restaurants use authentic recipes, many of which have been passed down for generations. Paired with views of Lake Michigan, inland lakes, vineyards, scenic farms, charming small towns and an attentive waitstaff, you will look forward to returning.

On page 103 you'll find a directory of all the restaurants supporting this magazine.

RESTAURANT LIST

Southwest Michigan offers a wide variety of excellent restaurants Scan the code for a list of local restaurants ready to serve you.

TABOR HILL
BUCHANAN

FOOD TRUCKS IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Take your food to go or park yourself at a picnic table! Some of the food trucks in Southwest Michigan operate from the same spot, along the bluff at Lookout Park in St. Joseph. Others can be found at Warren Dunes State Park on a warm summer day. You'll often find food trucks at local breweries along the Makers Trail. But plenty also travel to local events and festivals to offer up tasty eats.

Scan the code for a list of local food trucks

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Makers Trail

Southwest Michigan Beer, Wine, Cider & Spirits

Every land has its makers, those artisans who are crafters of wood, forgers of steel, and tillers of earth. Ours are masters of wine, beer, cider, and spirits. An increasing number of these artisans are putting down stakes just off our Lake Michigan shore. It's easy for you to find them. Just follow the Makers Trail. You're just minutes from each one in Southwest Michigan.

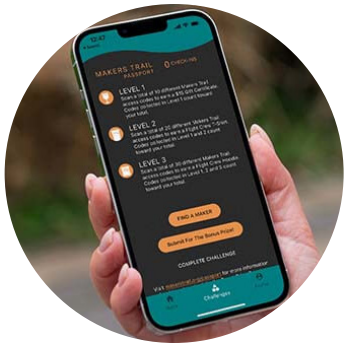
What a welcome you'll receive as wine corks are popped or beer kegs and whiskey barrels are tapped!

Some makers will pour flights for you and offer plates of savory cheeses, smoky grilled meats, crisp vegetables, and creamy chocolate truffles – most from locally sourced ingredients. So, take a moment to pause in the whirl of life. It'll make you happy.

The Makers Trail mobile app will guide your journey. Makers Trail maps are also available at the Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council.

The landscape of Southwest Michigan is dotted with picturesque vineyards and wineries, and craft breweries have sprung up in abundance throughout our area. Many of our wines and beers are award-winning and can be sampled at local restaurants, as well as at the wineries and breweries. We're delighted to share with you some of the best craft beverages you'll find anywhere.

Find the most updated listing at www.makerstrail.org.



WIN PRIZES WITH YOUR MAKERS TRAIL PASSPORT

Collect digital stamps, earn rewards with the Makers Trail Passport. Download your 2023/2024 Makers Trail Flight Crew Passport NOW! Then, taste your way through Berrien County visiting over 40 local wineries, breweries, cideries and distilleries between now and May 31, 2024. The more you visit, the more passport access codes you can scan, the more rewards you can earn. Traveling the Makers Trail is fun, relaxing and a great way to find favorite craft beverages.

Once you visit a location, ask your server for their unique access code to earn that location on the app. They'll give you a QR code to scan. Each time you complete a level, your information will automatically be saved. It's that easy! Download it NOW to get started!

RIVER ST. JOE
BUCHANAN

Download the Makers Trail Passport Today

Map out your flight path using the Makers Trail Guide on the free app. Printed maps will be available at participating hotels and Makers Trail locations. Then, start visiting each location. Each destination has a distinct personality and serves specialties to showcase each maker's craftsmanship. Order a flight so you can taste more!

Download on the App Store

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Download the app to complete your Makers Trail Passport.

GET IT ON Google Play

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Download the app to complete your Makers Trail Passport.

BREWERIES:

- **Arclight Brewing Company**
  544 N Main St, Watervliet
  arclightbrewing.com
- **Ghost Isle Brewery**
  17684 US-12, New Buffalo
  ghostislebrewery.com
- **Haymarket Brewing**
  9301 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman
  haymarketbrewing.com
- **Kingfisher Cocktails & Tacos**
  210 State Street, St. Joseph
  kingfisherdowntown.com
- **The Livery Microbrewery**
  190 5th St, Benton Harbor
  liverybrew.com
- **Niles Brewing Company**
  206 E Main St, Niles
  nilesbrewing.com
- **North Pier Brewing Company**
  670 North Shore Dr,
  Benton Harbor
  northpierbrewing.com
- **River St. Joe**
  15475 Walton Rd, Buchanan
  riversaintjoe.com
- **Round Barn Brewery & Public House**
  9151 First St, Baroda
  roundbarnpublichouse.com
- **Round Barn Winery, Distillery & Brewery**
  Baroda Tasting Room & Estate
  10983 Hills Rd, Baroda
  roundbarnwinery.com

LOCATIONS

- Baroda
- Benton Harbor
- Berrien Springs
- Bridgman
- Buchanan
- Cassopolis
- Coloma
- Dowagiac
- St. Joseph
- Stevensville
- South Haven
- New Buffalo
- Niles
- Three Oaks
- Union Pier
- Watervliet

BREWERIES
CONTINUED:

- **Silver Harbor Brewing Company**
  721 Pleasant St, St. Joseph
  silverharborbrewing.com
- **Seedz Brewery**
  16321 Red Arrow Hwy, Union Pier
  www.seedzbrewery.com
- **Tapistry Brewing**
  4236 Lake St, Bridgman
  tapistrybrewing.com
- **Transient Artisan Ales**
  4229 Lake St, Bridgman
  transientartisanales.com
- **Watermark Brewing Company**
  5781 St. Joseph Ave, Stevensville
  watermarkbrewing.com

CIDERIES:

- **Peat's Cider Social**
  6201 Red Arrow Hwy, Stevensville
  peatscider.com

LOCATIONS

- Baroda
- Benton Harbor
- Berrien Springs
- Bridgman
- Buchanan
- Cassopolis
- Coloma
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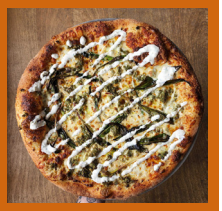

Hours of Operation

Monday - Thursday: Bar 4p - 10p Kitchen 4p - 9p

Friday - Saturday: Bar 12p - 12a Kitchen 12p - 10p

Sunday: Bar 12p - 9p Kitchen 12p - 8p

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  freeruncellars.com

- **Iron Shoe Distillery**
  3 North 3rd St, Niles
  ironshoedistillery.com

- **Journeyman Distillery**
  109 Generations Dr, Three Oaks
  journeymandistillery.com

- **Round Barn Public House**
  9151 First St, Baroda
  roundbarnpublichouse.com

- **Round Barn**
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  Baroda Tasting Room & Estate
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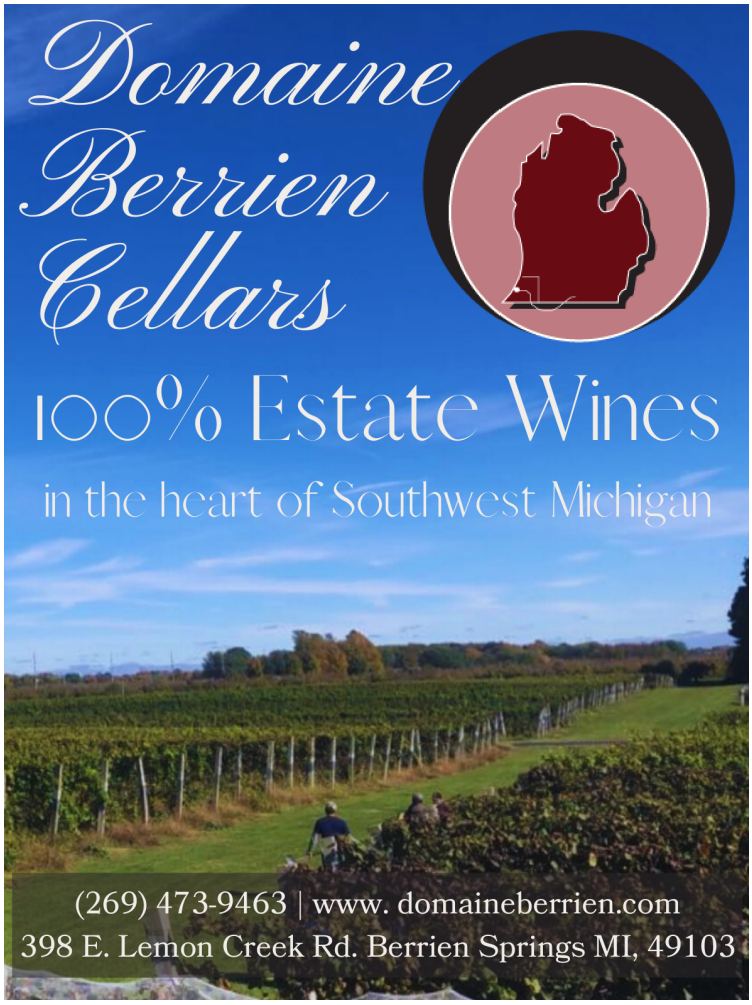
  roundbarnwinery.com

ROUND BARN PUBLIC HOUSE BARODA

WINERIES:

- **12 Corners Vineyards**
  1201 N Benton Center Rd, Benton Harbor
  12corners.com
- **Baroda Founders Tasting Room**
  415 State St, St. Joseph
  founderswinecellar.com
- **Baroda Founders Wine Cellar**
  8963 Hills Rd, Baroda
  founderswinecellar.com
- **Chill Hill Winery**
  8986 1st St, Baroda
  chillhill.net
- **Contessa Wine Cellars**
  3235 Friday Rd, Coloma
  contessawinecellars.com
- **Dablon Vineyards**
  111 W. Shawnee Rd, Baroda
  Dablon.com
- **Domaine Berrien Cellars**
  398 E. Lemon Creek Rd, Berrien Springs
  domaineberrien.com
- **Free Run Cellars**
  10062 Burgoyne Rd, Berrien Springs
  freeruncellars.com
- **Golden Muse Winery**
  8903 Stevensville-Baroda Rd, Baroda
  goldenmusewinery.com
- **Gravity Vineyard & Winery**
  10220 Lauer Rd, Baroda
  gravitywine.com
- **Hickory Creek Winery**
  750 Browntown Rd, Buchanan
  hickorycreekwinery.com
- **Karma Vista Vineyards**
  6991 Ryno Rd, Coloma
  karmavista.com
- **Lake Michigan Vintners**
  2774 E Empire Ave, Benton Harbor
  lakemichiganvintners.com
- **Lazy Ballerina Winery**
  321 State St, St. Joseph
  lazyballerinawinery.com
- **Lehman's Orchard Brewery & Farmhouse**
  2280 Portage Rd, Niles
  lehmansorchard.com



WINERIES
CONTINUED:

- **Lemon Creek Winery**
  533 E Lemon Creek Rd,
  Berrien Springs
  lemoncreekwinery.com

- **Moonrise Winery**
  7785 Hill Rd, Watervliet
  moonrisewinery.com

- **Red Top Winery**
  482 E Snow Rd, Baroda
  redtopwinery.com

- **Round Barn & Free Run Cellars Union Pier Tasting Room**
  9185 Union Pier Rd, Union Pier
  roundbarnwinery.com
  freeruncellars.com

- **Round Barn Public House**
  9151 First St, Baroda
  roundbarnpublichouse.com

- **Round Barn Winery**
  10983 Hills Rd, Baroda
  roundbarnwinery.com

- **St. Julian Winery Union Pier Tasting Room**
  9145 Union Pier Rd, Union Pier
  stjulian.com

- **Tabor Hill Winery Champagne Cellar**
  10243 Red Arrow Hwy, Bridgman
  taborhill.com

- **Tabor Hill Winery & Restaurant**
  185 Mount Tabor Rd, Buchanan
  taborhill.com

- **Vineyard 2121 Winery & Tasting Room**
  4110 Red Arrow Hwy,
  Benton Harbor
  vineyard2121.com

- **White Pine Winery**
  317 State St, St. Joseph
  whitepinewinery.com

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SOCIAL DISTRICTS

Designated Public Areas for Adult Beverages

Social Districts are walkable designated areas where purchased alcohol is allowed and Southwest Michigan has four of them: St. Joseph, Bridgman, Niles, and Buchanan.

Within these districts you can purchase alcoholic drinks from participating businesses and consume them in outdoor common areas, which are marked by signage surrounding the district. This means you can window shop, enjoy walking around while waiting for your lunch or dinner reservation, and support local businesses. You can also enjoy the scenery throughout the downtown, spend time in downtown parks and take in the magnificent views of Lake Michigan!

HERE ARE A FEW RULES TO HELP YOU ENJOY THE SOCIAL DISTRICTS

- Anyone is welcome, but only those 21+ can purchase and consume alcoholic beverages.
- Purchases are made at participating businesses and cannot be brought into other establishments that sell alcohol.
- Finish your alcoholic beverage before you leave because these drinks cannot be removed from the Social District.
- When you finish you must toss the cup into a trash bin as the cup cannot be reused, even at the same establishment.
- Leave your drinks at home as they cannot be brought into the Social District areas.
- Drink responsibly and enjoy your time in Michigan's Great Southwest!

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(See ad on page 76)
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HOPS NOGGIN TOURS
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(See ad on page 74)
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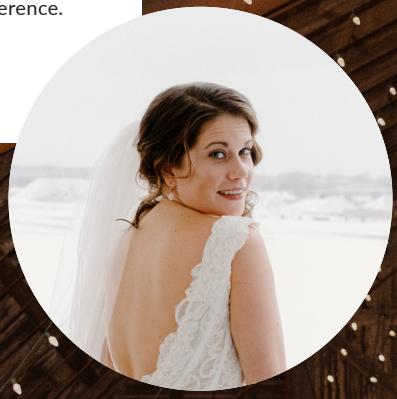
PLAN YOUR EVENT

PLANNING YOUR EVENT MADE EASY

It's showtime! It's time to plan the perfect wedding or conference. Southwest Michigan has the views, the food, and the venues to make any event special. The Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council is eager to assist you.



PHOTOS: NICOLE BATES PHOTOGRAPHY

BLUE DRESS BARN - BENTON HARBOR

LOVE CREEK NATURE CENTER
BERRIEN CENTER

MEETINGS & REUNIONS

Southwest Michigan is the Ideal Choice

When planning a business meeting, training for new hires, a small convention or a family reunion - exceed your group's expectations. Meet in Southwest Michigan.

Galvanize goals as daylight streams into your meeting space. Serve meals infused with locally harvested flavors everyone will rave about. And solidify even the most disparate teams while raising the sails of a replica 1810 sloop, sinking putts on a Senior PGA course or climbing a century-old lighthouse to watch a fiery red Lake Michigan sunset.

See how easily you can host the best meetings and group gatherings in Southwest Michigan.

GROUP PLANNER

Please give us the details of your event for your group of 10 or more. We will reach out to area hotels, restaurants, entertainment sites and services, then provide you with choices that will enhance your plans and fit your budget.

HELPFUL HINT

Scan the code to launch the Group Planner. We'll do the research for you!

FERNWOOD BOTANICAL GARDENS
NILES

FIND THE RIGHT SPACE

If you are planning a business meeting, small convention, family celebration or reunion with your class or club members, Southwest Michigan has the right space for you. Choose from rooms with water views, private breakout spaces, auditoriums, theaters, banquet facilities, lodges and beach pavilions. Find wide-open areas for configuring booths and demonstration stations, or outdoor spaces for large tents.

Site managers will keep your gathering running smoothly, providing the Wi-Fi, live-streaming and audio/visual equipment you need. Most venues have free parking and all are near lodgings, team-building activities and entertainment.

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INTIMATE SPACES

Welcome 5 to 20 Guests

Southwest Michigan is ideal for C and D-level retreats, brainstorming sessions, legal depositions, focus groups and board meetings. Families and friends will find intimate spaces for their celebrations, too. Choose from very private spaces, rooms with large windows and seating to fit your interaction needs. Or spark fresh ideas in our vineyard igloos, cabanas, beer gardens and on decks along the Makers Trail.

ANEMEL
BENTON HARBOR

MID-SIZE SPACES

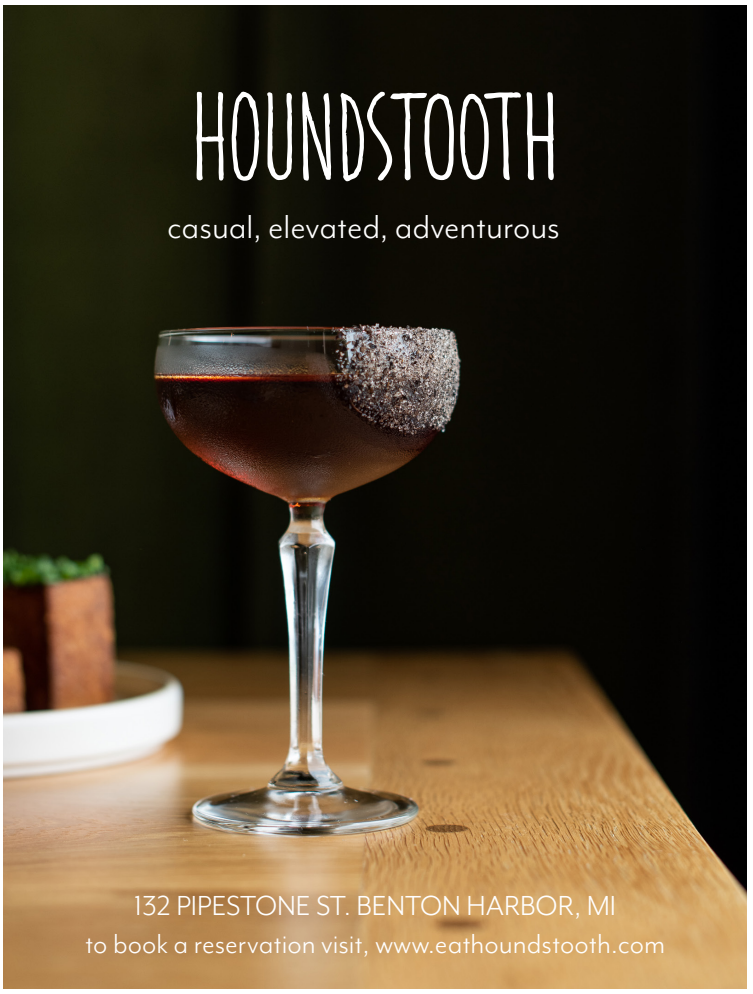
Host 25 to 275 Guests

Want to hold a training, workshop or sales rep meeting where your invitees will quickly respond "Yes!" to coming? Or to celebrate an anniversary, retirement or reunion that will draw guests from near and far? Choose from contemporary ballrooms and halls, charming museums, historic sites, rustic yet amenity-filled farm settings, performance stages, scenic Lake Michigan and riverfront pavilions and nature centers.

LARGE SPACES

Gather 300 to 1,500 Guests

Inviting a large group? Our largest facility is The Mendel Center at Lake Michigan College. Grand Upton Hall handles small conventions, trade shows and catered meetings of up to 900 guests. Or hold your presentations, performances, and lectures in The Mainstage Theater with its 1,500+ auditorium seats. Other large venues include botanical gardens, a distillery, miniature golf fun park and barns that provide space to visit, eat and do interactive activities.



MORNING TEAM BUILDING STRENGTHENS BONDS

Team Building in Southwest Michigan

One of the top reasons to meet or hold reunions in Southwest Michigan is the abundance of ways you can strengthen bonds, fortify relationships and deepen trust and respect. Solidify your team by share the thrill of reeling in a feisty salmon. Push your limits by throwing axes, cable wakeboarding or mountain biking white-knuckle trails. Or unwind together in your free time, tasting craft beverages, paddling scenic rivers, harvesting fresh fruits and vegetables or taking cooking or glass-making classes. Even the most disparate groups grow closer.

Interacting or conversing is key to these start-your-day activities. Here some morning options to jump start your team building.

BENTON HARBOR ARTS DISTRICT
(APPROXIMATELY 2½ - 3 HOURS)
This walkable neighborhood is one of the most vibrant in Southwest Michigan's art scene. Spend your morning visiting the Benton Harbor Arts District shops and art galleries where you can often meet the artists. Before coming, arrange for a private class in fused glass, mosaics or bead/jewelry making at Water Street Glassworks or a private painting or drawing class at ARS Gallery, Arts & Culture Center.

If time permits, enjoy brunch at one of the Arts District's eclectic selection of restaurants: Mason Jar Café, Anemel, The Livery or Souls Ground Cafe.

GOLF
(APPROXIMATELY 3 HOURS)
Fuel your team's passion for the game by playing on courses where big-name amateur and professional golfers have sunk breath-holding putts to win championships. Or on courses that make playing fun for learners to every level in your group. Benton Harbor golf courses are not only top picks, but are within minutes of most meeting venues. The on-site clubhouses and restaurants let you quench your thirst or share stories over a snack or meal.

- **Harbor Shores Golf Course:** A championship, 18-hole Jack Nicklaus Signature design and
- **Lake Michigan Hills Golf Course:** This course has consistently received a four-star rating from Golf Digest's — Best Places to Play.
- **Point o' Woods Golf & Country Club:** Robert Trent Jones, Sr., claims this is one of his best designs in America.

In the off-seasons or on a rainy day, bring the team to Pipestone Indoor Country Club in the Benton Harbor Arts District. Hone your beginning to pro-level skills on the virtual links of Golf Digest's premier simulators. Benton Harbor

CHARTER A FISHING TRIP
(APPROXIMATELY 4 HOURS)
Smaller groups can hook up with a U.S. Coast Guard licensed captain and wet their lines in Southwest Michigan's rivers and Lake Michigan. Experience the thrill of reeling in Chinook and Coho salmon, steelhead, trout, perch, catfish and walleye. Launch from Benton Harbor, St. Joseph, New Buffalo and South Haven. Charters supply the bait, tackle and fish cleaning.

TEAM BUILDING WITH LINE DANCER SPORT FISHING

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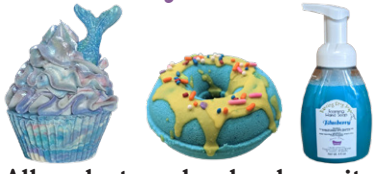

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AFTERNOON TEAM BUILDING TO EXCEED EXPECTATIONS

Here are ways to fire up your team, unify new with old members or flip the attitudes of meeting-weary or jaded participants.

SAIL ON TALL SHIP MJ (APPROXIMATELY 3 HOURS)
This activity is sure to have your team talking for days! Reserve your Lake Michigan sail aboard the MJ, a vintage sailing schooner that has that "old friend" feeling even when meeting her for the first time! She is modeled after work boats from Nova Scotia that were popular about 100 years ago.

Her day job is to share the timeless wonder of sailing ships on the Inland Seas. She is available for daily sailing excursions, private events, or special group programs. Sails will be intimate and comfortable as we are limiting passengers to 6 people. Each trip is infused with special details to help guests feel the magic of the bygone days of old sailing ships, their songs, and stories.

TAKE A COOKING OR CRAFT BEVERAGE CLASS (APPROXIMATELY 3 HOURS)
Southwest Michigan is home to Whirlpool Corporation, an international leader in home appliance manufacturing, so our community loves learning to cook. It also has bragging rights for being one of the best wine, beer, cider and spirits-making regions in the country. So, several places offer cooking, food-pairing dinners and cocktail mixing classes.

Arrange team-learning experiences with The Culinary Cottage, Perennial Accents, River Saint Joe Brewery, Free Run Cellars, Round Barn Winery & Estate and more.

You can also find new favorite craft beverages while tasting along the Makers Trail. With over 40 wineries, breweries, cideries and distilleries within minutes of each other, you can dedicate a couple of hours to finding new favorites. Tour services are available to make visiting even easier.

LIGHTHOUSE TOUR & PADDLING (APPROXIMATELY 3 HOURS)
If you meet during spring through fall, these two activities get two thumbs-up from planners. Arrange a guided tour of the century-old North Pier lighthouse, including climbing to the top for an incredible view of Lake Michigan, the St. Joseph Harbor and beyond. It is accessible from Tiscornia Park.

Pair this activity with renting kayaks or stand-up paddleboards from Third Coast Paddling and taking in the beautiful scenery of the Paw Paw River, Silver Beach, the Galien River and at Warren Dunes State Park.

EVENING TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES FORTIFY RELATIONSHIPS

These activities strengthen teams by making it easy to talk, laugh and cheer each other on. They are perfect for unwinding on any of the nights you stay over.

CRAFT CIDER + BOWLING
(APPROXIMATELY 2 HOURS)
Combine a 1960s bowling alley, arcade games and a retro-inspired patio with craft hard cider and seltzer waters, and your team will have no trouble interacting. Peat's Cider Social is ageless fun all year-round.

A unique, alternate winter activity is to bring your group to River Saint Joe farmstead brewery in Buchanan. Its River Rocks will get your team outside playing shuffleboard on ice with a broom and curling stones. Anyone can play — and they will!

PEAT'S CIDER SOCIAL
STEVENSVILLE

ENJOY A LIVE PERFORMANCE OR CONCERT
(APPROXIMATELY 2 - 3 HOURS)
For more than a century, Southwest Michigan has attracted renowned actors, performers, musicians and poets to our theaters, indoor and outdoor performing arts venues, music events, fairs and festivals. These shows will open your team's minds, fire up their passions and spark ideas. Some popular live performance venues to attend as a team or with traveling companions are The Mendel Center, The Acorn, The GhostLight Theatre, Twin City Players, and Howard Performing Arts Center.

WATCH AN INCREDIBLE SUNSET
(APPROXIMATELY 1½ HOURS)
Whether along the coast or inland, Southwest Michigan's sunsets are renowned around the world! The horizon can become a splash of orange, peach, gold, scarlet, lavender and cream with the sun becoming a hazy yellow or fiery red ball. Watching sunsets is a ritual here, gazing from our bluffs, shores, across our marshes, orchards and vineyards. Enjoy an ice cream or coffee as you watch from land. Or take an awe-inspiring sunset cruise on the Southwest Michigan CycleBoat, Nia's Pontoons, the New Buffalo Sailing Excursions, Oselka Marina yacht cruise or The SunSetter.

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INSIDER TIPS FOR PLANNING YOUR WEDDING IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Make Your Special Day Perfect

Plan a Memorable Event for Less

When planning a business meeting, training for new hires, a family reunion or your wedding — exceed your expectations. Host it in Southwest Michigan. Galvanize goals as daylight streams into your meeting space. Say "I do" in gorgeous barn-turned-wedding venues, dance in elegant ballrooms and take wedding portraits along the lake. Serve meals infused with locally harvested flavors that everyone will rave about. And give your guests plenty of unique things to do while they anticipate your stellar event!

See how easily you can host an event that offers more while paying less in Southwest Michigan.

You're engaged - congratulations! Now, it's time to find a place to celebrate your wedding that you'll both love. Southwest Michigan has everything your hearts desire for a dream-come-true wedding and honeymoon in all four seasons. From gorgeous Lake Michigan beaches to secluded vistas in the vineyards, this is where your ever-after begins. Our vibrant resort towns have the venues, hotels, catering and decorations that will create a truly-yours day. Moreover, we also have the downtime gathering places where you and your guests can make some of your happiest memories – playing golf on championship courses, sipping craft beverages or watching colorful sunsets in awe. Here, you'll find the people and places that will help you create one of the most treasured moments of your life. These are the top six reasons and tips to plan your wedding in Southwest Michigan.

1. MORE DATES ARE AVAILABLE

During summer Saturdays, it's not unusual for venues to book two half-day slots. That's why many summer wedding or special event planners now choose Friday or Sunday. You won't have to compromise your day of the week or time as often in the spring, fall and winter.

Tip: Plan to choose your date 18 to 24 months in advance.

2. BETTER PRICING ON VENUES

Before choosing your date, ask your favorite Southwest Michigan venues when they offer their lowest prices.

Tip: Many area venues have seasonal rates that will save you money.

3. MORE HOTEL ROOMS ARE AVAILABLE – WITH BETTER PRICING, TOO

The Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council offers a free hotel bid service to help you get the best rates for hotels in our region. Just ask our staff to put your wedding or special event date(s) out for bid, and we'll contact multiple hotels. We'll then send you prices from the hotels that are willing to bid.

Tip: You'll have more choices and often better room rates in winter, spring and fall.

4. GREATER AVAILABILITY FOR CATERERS, FLORISTS, DJS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, ETC.

Many Southwest Michigan vendors cost less than in larger wedding destinations.

Tip: It's easier to get your first choices (and more attention from them) in the off-season.

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5. GORGEOUS SCENERY FOR YOUR PHOTOGRAPHS

Fluttering, pastel orchard blossoms, gorgeous summer-blue waves, brilliant fall foliage, snow sparkling like diamonds and dramatic ice formations along Lake Michigan all create an aura of magic and romance. And there's not a single season that doesn't offer spectacular sunsets along our coast.

6. LOTS OF WAYS TO ENTERTAIN YOUR GUESTS

Your guests will have fun playing in Southwest Michigan. Some favorite ideas to suggest: golf, kayak, charter a fishing trip, tour our Makers Trail of craft beverage destinations, catch a show or concert, snowshoe or ski – the list goes on and on.

Tip: The Tourist Council staff can pull together brochures and maps that you can add to your welcome packets.

We propose that you check out **swmichigan.org/weddings** for all the resources you need to make your day fabulous. Looking forward to celebrating with you in any season, soon!

Photo credit: Kitty Lee Photography

BEST BACHELORETTE PARTY EVER

When it comes to planning an unforgettable bachelorette party, Southwest Michigan emerges as an unexpected gem, offering a blend of picturesque landscapes, delightful wineries and a charming, fun atmosphere to celebrate in. Whether you seek a relaxing retreat or an adventure-filled celebration, this region has something to offer for every bridal party. These are some of the best bachelorette party destinations in Southwest Michigan.

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Grub, Suds & Good Times
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Exceptional cocktails and the coldest beer.
Outstanding comfort food and service.
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MAKERS TRAIL

What is a bachelorette weekend without some alcohol if the group enjoys a beverage? Our Makers Trail is home to over 40 craft beverage destinations — approximately 30 of them are primarily wineries, vineyards or make wine. The rest consist of distilleries, breweries and cideries. Visit one or two locations, and grab food at some, too. If you want to spend a whole day on the trail, you can also book a tour bus to take you from maker to maker so you can enjoy responsibly. If you're celebrating between Labor Day weekend and Memorial Day Weekend, you can collect codes on the Makers Trail Passport app to earn fun prizes for visiting! Learn more on pages 70-78.

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Maybe your group excels in the art scene. There are so many creators in Southwest Michigan who contribute to our rich culture. A lot of them offer paint and pour, glass blowing and wine and canvas classes, in addition to other mediums. Check out our Creative Connections challenge. The locations included mean you can schedule a private class or shop for local art while earning rewards! This one runs year round, and several live performances are included! Learn more on page 40.

BEACH

We would be remiss not to mention our beautiful Great Lake shoreline beaches. These can make for a relaxing day by themselves! We know how much everyone loves a day in the sand, along a large body of water, relaxing under the sun. Or to be able to stop by that same spot year round to watch the waves at play. You'll find that oasis on the beaches in Southwest Michigan. We know we are impartial, so we will let our refreshing clear waters of Lake Michigan, miles of soft golden sand, towering dunes and fun-filled locations speak for themselves. If it's too cold for a day at the beach, at least swing by for a colorful, jaw-dropping sunset.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Take advantage of the region's natural beauty by forest bathing or organizing outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing or kayaking along the scenic trails and waterways in the area. Information about all of these activities can be found in the Outdoor and Recreation section beginning on page 30.

SHOPPING

Our region is home to several small businesses, boutiques and chain department stores. Shop for locally handmade art and home decor, apparel to remember your time in Southwest Michigan, goods to add to your kitchen, keepsakes and stylish clothing that fewer people will have. In between all your activities, stroll through our charming downtowns and enjoy shopping in Southwest Michigan.

WHERE TO STAY FOR YOUR BACHELORETTE PARTY

Start planning ahead! Discover each of our charming towns and figure out which activities you want. If your itinerary is scattered around the region, rest assured that the drive between towns is short. Once you know where you want to be, book your stay!

Southwest Michigan is an exceptional destination for an unforgettable bachelorette party. With its scenic wineries, picturesque beaches and an array of cultural and outdoor activities, this region promises to create cherished memories that will last a lifetime. Plan your bachelorette getaway here and embark on a journey filled with laughter, camaraderie and moments of pure joy with the bride-to-be. Congratulations to the brides you are celebrating!

HELPFUL HINT

Whether you are planning a wedding, party, reception, reunion, or company retreat, scan the code to view the many venue choices.

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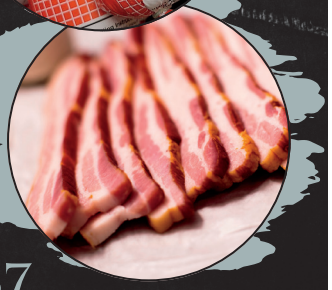

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RESOURCES

HELPFUL HINT

Our hotels include amenities like views of Lake Michigan, pools for the kids to play, romantic packages and tail-wagging accommodations for your pet.

OUR REGION OFFERS THE RESOURCES TO MAKE EVERYONE FEEL WELCOMED AND SAFE

Businesses and residents of Southwest Michigan value everyone and want to make you feel right at home. Whether you are looking for a place to stay with a pet or you are traveling with a wheelchair, you will find exactly what you need.

THE INN AT HARBOR SHORES - ST. JOSEPH

WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE & SENSORY-FRIENDLY IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Fun is Accessible for Virtually Everyone

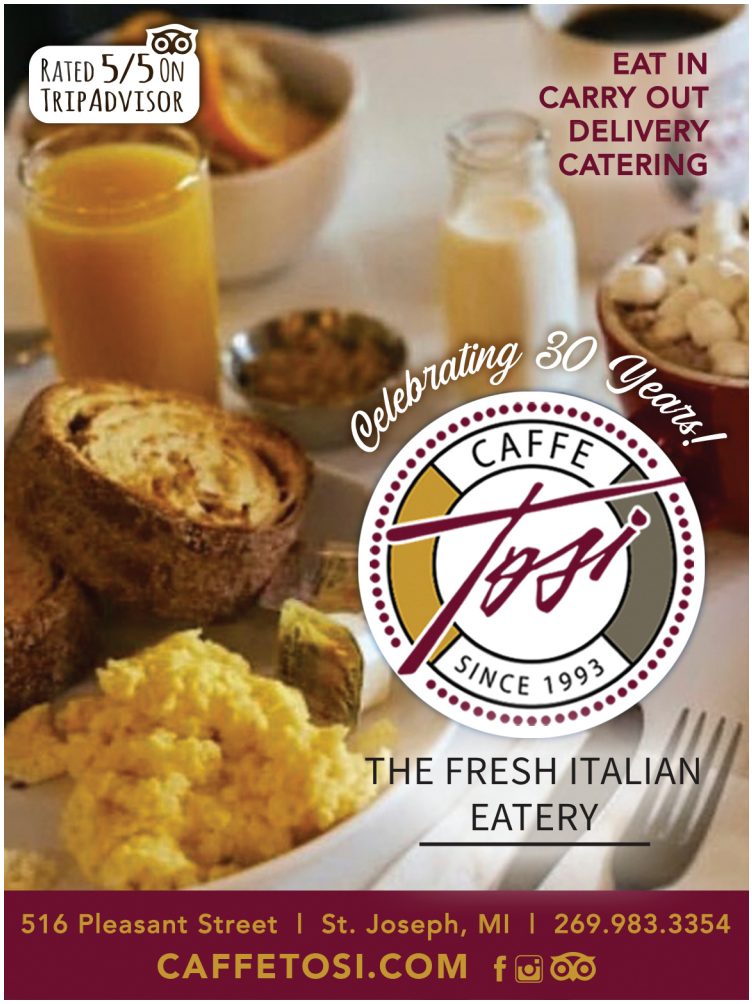
Are you searching for a fun vacation destination that is wheelchair-accessible? Or traveling with someone who is neurodivergent and you want to go where everyone feels welcome and comfortable? Pack your bags and make happy memories in Southwest Michigan.

GO AHEAD AND VACATION WITH YOUR WHEELCHAIR

Southwest Michigan does an excellent job of making accommodations for wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches and service animals. Roll down near the water at our seven accessible Lake Michigan beaches using paved sidewalks, boardwalks, ramps and beach wheelchairs. Or visit dozens of easy-to-access entertainment venues, shopping and dining locations, lodgings and much more. Here's an overview of the fun that awaits.

SENSORY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES ABOUND HERE

You will find an array of sensory-friendly activities for those who want as little stimulation as possible to those with PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder), dyspraxia or an insatiable appetite for stimulation. Add these places to your stay when planning where to visit.



WHERE TO VACATION WITH YOUR WHEELCHAIR

Are you searching for a fun vacation destination that is wheelchair-friendly? Welcome to Southwest Michigan! This area does an excellent job of making ADA accommodations for wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches and service animals. So, come for the beaches, the attractions, entertainment venues, shopping, lodgings and so much more! Here's an overview of the fun that awaits.

7 ACCESSIBLE BEACHES

Along with seven wheelchair accessible beaches, four have free-to-use beach wheelchairs. Spending time at Lake Michigan is one of the top reasons to visit this beach resort area. Paved sidewalks, boardwalks, ramps and beach wheelchairs make it easier to be near the water. Our nine accessible beaches are:

Silver Beach County Park, 101 Broad St., St. Joseph. A barrier-free walkway from the parking lot runs along the beachfront and throughout the park. The walkway gives access to the Dunes Pavilion (a picnic spot), Shadowland Pavilion (an entertainment and wedding venue) and the South Pier. For easier access to the water during the summer, reserve a beach wheelchair for free at the office next to the restrooms.

Lions Park Beach, south end of Lions Park Drive, St. Joseph. This small beach offers barrier-free access to the picnic pavilions, each with great views of Lake Michigan. It's also a trailhead to the paved and shaded John and Dede Howard Family Recreational Trail.

Tiscornia Beach Park, 80 Ridgeway St., St. Joseph. It's tough to top this park's scenic views of the historic North Pier Lighthouse, St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan. Park near the beach and access the North Pier, picnic areas and restrooms.

Jean Klock Park Beach, Jean Klock Drive, Benton Harbor. If you don't want to be caught in crowds, this is a beautiful destination. Park near the picnic pavilion or restrooms for views of Lake Michigan, the dunes and the North Pier Lighthouse. This is also one of the access points to the 12 miles of paved Harbor Shores Nature & Fitness Trails that take you by Lake Michigan and the Paw Paw and St. Joseph Rivers.

Weko Beach & Campground, 5237 Lake St., Bridgman. Nestled in 42 acres of picturesque wooded dunes, this is a wonderful place to experience the great outdoors, relax and enjoy the soft, sandy beaches and refreshing waters of Lake Michigan. The park makes this easier for everyone with their sand-and-water accessible wheelchair that you can reserve at no cost from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., May through mid-September. Stop by the beach house to check availability. The park also has two 50-foot, ADA-accessible Mobi-Mats. The mat provides a smooth surface for moving wheelchairs, strollers and wagons between the parking lot and the beachfront.

Warren Dunes State Park, 12032 Red Arrow Highway, Sawyer. It is amazing to see these towering dunes! You can reach this park's 3 miles of sandy shoreline with one of the two, free-to-use beach wheelchairs during the summer. You also can navigate some of the 6 miles of nature trails. A plus to this destination is its dog beach which is accessible from the northernmost parking lot. Keep your pet on a six-foot-or-shorter leash here and throughout the park.

New Buffalo Beach & Lakefront Park, 200 Marquette Dr, New Buffalo. A boardwalk extends from the parking lot to the concession area and toward the 800-foot beachfront. Another boardwalk creates a nature trail along the dune line. See the lifeguard for the park's beach wheelchair that gets you to the water's edge.

GO FISHING OR KAYAKING

There are four popular places with ADA accommodations to wet your line; one of them has a barrier-free kayak launch, too.

Tiscornia Beach Park, 80 Ridgeway St., St. Joseph. Roll out from the parking lot onto the North Pier. Join other anglers reeling in Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Steelhead plus Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Channel Catfish, Freshwater Drum and Yellow Perch.

Riverview Park, 2927 Niles Road, St. Joseph. When you enter this 107-acre city park located on a bend of the St. Joseph River, take the first dirt road on the left. Park and wheel up to fish on the river's bank. Bring bait and lures for Smallmouth Bass, Walleye, Channel Catfish and Flathead Catfish.

Carronde Park, 2650-2698 Riverbend Drive, Benton Harbor, is just across the St. Joseph River. In the spring time, you can enjoy their newly installed accessible kayak launch, too.

Paw Paw River County Park, 650 N. Main St., Watervliet. This tranquil park is one of Berrien County's newest and it was designed with your accessibility in mind. There are hard-surface hiking trails, a bridge to a river island, fishing access and a barrier-free kayak launch so you can fully enjoy this scenic setting. If you bring your pole, the Paw Paw River has 39 fish species including Walleye, Bass, Bluegill, Black Crappie and Northern Pike.

3 ACCESSIBLE PLACES TO PLAY AND FEEL THE MAGIC

Whether you are in a stroller, wheelchair or cruising with another mobility-assisted device, there are four places that delight all ages in St. Joseph.

Curious Kids' Museum at 415 Lake Blvd. and Curious Kids' Discovery Zone in the Silver Beach Center, at 333 Broad St., feature more than 100 interactive activities and exhibits to spark your child's imagination and a love of learning. Toddlers to young teens with all abilities will not be in a hurry to leave these facilities made just for them.

Whirlpool Compass Park is a giant splash pad below the bluff on Broad Street. It creates free, refreshing water play from Memorial Day until the end of September.

Silver Beach Carousel at 333 Broad St. is a year-round gem. It has 48 hand-carved and painted figures plus two chariots that are magical to ride whether you are 1 or 100 years old. The Serpent Chariot is wheelchair accessible and earplugs are available to anyone with sensory sensitivities, so you can experience firsthand why this is billed as the happiest place in Southwest Michigan.

ROLLABLE DOWNTOWNS

One of the reasons you will like rolling into St. Joseph and Benton Harbor are the sidewalks. The downtown St. Joseph sidewalks connect you to shops, restaurants, winery tasting rooms, breweries, historic neighborhoods and art galleries. Many of these places also have parking spaces outside their doors.

St. Joseph's sidewalks also lead to the shaded Lake Bluff Park and the John E.N. Howard Bandshell where there are farm markets, music, art fairs and more. Or take these walkways down the bluff to Margaret Upton Arboretum along the St. Joseph River. Or use the paved ramp by the covered stairs to reach Silver Beach Pizza, the Amtrak train station and all of Silver Beach's fun spots.

Another sidewalk friendly destination is Benton Harbor's Arts District. Here you can easily access indoor and outdoor venues for art, music, theater, dance and some of the region's most-talked-about craft brews and locally sourced foods served up on small and large plates.

SENSORY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

When you or someone you love is neurodivergent, you want to vacation where you feel welcome and comfortable. In Southwest Michigan you will find an array of sensory friendly activities. The places we listed below are easy to leave if you or your loved one discover you are not comfortable there. Here are some places and activities to consider when planning your visit.

LOW-STIMULATION ACTIVITIES

BREATHE IN NATURE AT FERNWOOD BOTANICAL GARDEN AND NATURE PRESERVE

This is a favorite destination for many individuals and families. It offers fragrant flowers and herbs, a soothing water wheel, a bird-watching station, trails to wetlands, a pond, the St. Joseph River and a much-loved outdoor railway garden. The garden trails are paved, but the nature preserve trails are not wheelchair accessible. Bring your snowshoes in the winter.

FIND SERENITY WHILE YOU PADDLE OR PEDAL

You will find dozens of scenic places to paddle, from rivers and inland lakes to ponds and Lake Michigan. The best times to see wildlife along the banks or shores are early morning and evening. Paddling at sunset is soul-stirring all year.

If you don't own a kayak or SUP, Third Coast Paddling offers rental options on the Paw Paw and Galien Rivers and at Silver Beach County Park. Doe-Wah-Jack Canoe Rental provides canoe and kayak rentals for trips on the Dowagiac River. Scooter Joe's Wheel & Water Rentals is your one-stop-shop for street-legal golf carts to bike surreys, bicycles, kayaks, Lily Pads, pontoon boats and beach wagons for towing your beach gear.

HIKING TRAILS - QUIET AND BEAUTIFUL ALL YEAR

All four seasons are gorgeous on Southwest Michigan's trails. Whether you enjoy strolling through the woods, a rigorous dune climb, shifting gears on a twisty mountain bike trail or gliding across a sparkling winter wonderland on cross-country skis, you will make sensory friendly memories here.

STARGAZING AT DR. T.K. LAWLESS PARK — AN INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY PARK

Stargazing may not be the first thing you think of for a sensory friendly outdoor activity, but it's difficult to surpass. You do not need a telescope or other equipment, just your eyes and a comfortable place to sit — a blanket or lawn chair works. Gazing up at the stars, planets and meteors has many sensory benefits, such as experiencing no light pollution and the peaceful quiet. We are fortunate that one of the best places to see the night sky in the Midwest is Dr. T.K. Lawless County Park, an International Dark Sky Park.

U-PICK FARMS AND MARKETS

This sensory friendly activity is one of our favorites from spring through fall (you also can choose your holiday tree in the winter). Southwest Michigan is nationally renowned for the variety of foods we grow. Many of our farmers welcome visitors to their orchards, fields and farm stands. Even the pickiest eaters will agree that a sun-ripened Michigan strawberry, cherry, peach, pear or apple is sweeter, juicier and tastier than store-bought. There is also nothing to compare with choosing your own fresh-harvested vegetables or, in the fall, hefting the plumpest pumpkin from the field to bring home and carve.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES - SENSORY-INCLUSIVE SPACES AND ACTIVITIES

Our local libraries take great pride in being some of the most sensory-inclusive spaces in Southwest Michigan. Lincoln Township Public Library in Stevensville, is a Kulturecity® certified Sensory Inclusive™ venue. When you arrive, go to the circulation desk and request a sensory bag with fidget toys and headphones. This library hosts sensory friendly movies and other activities. It also has a quiet zone and a headphone zone to accommodate each visitor's changing needs.

St. Joseph's Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library is a tranquil, calming place, especially on rainy or busy beach days. Ask at the circulation desk for a sensory bag. In it, you will find four social stories, a weighted blanket, headphones, sunglasses, fidget toys, Picture Exchange Communication (PECs) cards, a rainmaker toy and a bubble motion toy to entertain or draw your child into interactive play with your child. When needed, you and your child can escape to a designated quiet room or area.

CHALLENGE YOUR SENSES

When you or your child thrill at being in a high-stimulation environment of flashing lights, loud sounds, intense smells or lots of action, try these seven exciting activities.

SHARE YOUR SENSORY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

As you know, it can be a challenge to find sensory friendly activities when you travel. Help us spread the word by posting your experiences with **#swmichigan**. We want you to find life's simple joys when you are here.

7 Ways to Push Your Senses

1. Attend the Berrien County Youth Fair
2. Travel back in time at Eden Springs Park
3. Race Go-Karts at Hidden Pointe
4. Attend an outdoor concert
5. Discover where hard cider meets bowing at Peat's Cider Social
6. Take in the buzz of the crowd when you eat indoors at Silver Beach Pizza
7. Run through one of five area splash pads

Pets Welcome!

VISITORS' GUIDE TO A PET-FRIENDLY SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN

Southwest MICHIGAN

SWMICHIGAN.ORG

WE ARE PET FRIENDLY

Four Legged Friends are Welcomed Here

Our laid-back vibe welcomes your dog to splash in the waves on our pristine, Lake Michigan coast. Hike miles of trails that follow picturesque rivers and cut through quiet woods. Wander into quaint shops or frolic at festivals in our lake resort towns. Let your furry best friend tag along as you sample handcrafted wines, beers, ciders and spirits on the Southwest Michigan Makers Trail. Together, you will make memories to last a lifetime.

7 TIPS FOR A STAY WITH YOUR PET

1. Make sure your pet is up-to-date on vaccinations. With so many places to visit, your pet will likely encounter other people and their animals. We want all of our four-legged friends to stay healthy.
2. Keep your pet close with a six-foot or shorter leash. The one exception is our designated leash-free dog parks. There, you are expected to be in control of your pet at all times.
3. NEVER leave your pet in a vehicle during warm temperatures.
4. Clean up after your pet. You will find free pet waste bags in marked dispensers throughout downtown St. Joseph, Lake Bluff Park, the John and Dede Howard Family Recreational Trail and in other communities.
5. There are doggy drinking fountains located in our parks and beaches. On hot days especially, carry water and a bowl to keep your pet hydrated.
6. Heed all posted warnings and flags along the shorelines and beaches — high waves, rip currents and undertows are unsafe for pets and their people.
7. Look for the pet-friendly decals at the entrance to area businesses to tell at a glance where your pet is welcome.

When you relocate to Southwest Michigan, our First Choice team will:

Assist you and your spouse in navigating the local job market.

We'll introduce you to networking opportunities, key employers, and HR personnel so that you can can find meaningful and enriching employment opportunities.

Give you an insider's view of Michigan's *Great* Southwest.

Our local experts will take you on community tours that help you find the right neighborhood, schools, places of worship, and leisure activities for you and your family.

Help you build a sense of belonging.

Relocating isn't easy, but First Choice makes it easier so that you can start to feel at home before you've even unpacked.

First at Cornerstone Alliance
CHOICE
Showcasing Southwest Michigan

"I was anxious about moving to a new city and finding a job in the biology field, but **with the help of Cornerstone Alliance, I found a position** in environmental consulting and have been able to kickstart my career here. They were an invaluable resource!"

-Edward

Learn more at **GoMichigan.com**

80 W. Main Street | Benton Harbor, MI 49022 | (269) 757-0224

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN IS FOR KIDS

Make Memories that will Last a Lifetime

When you're looking for something to entertain your kids, skip the same local park you always visit. Instead, bring them to Southwest Michigan, where the city of St. Joseph is a playground just waiting to be explored! Museums, beaches, camps, ice cream and treats, along with a variety of additional indoor and outdoor entertainment await you. Here are just a few of the kid friendly things to do in St. Joseph during your next visit.

SILVER BEACH CAROUSEL
Start your journey at the Silver Beach Carousel located at the Silver Beach Center. Horses, tigers, hippocampus and even a raptor are just a few of the 48 unique carousel figures ready to greet you. Thousands of twinkling lights, a band organ, historic images of the community, activities and games add to the fun and excitement of your visit. While at the carousel, be sure to visit the Silver Beach Amusement Park Museum. A detailed model of the Silver Beach Amusement Park, photographs, fun-house mirrors and more give you a taste of what Silver Beach was like from 1892 to 1971.

EDEN SPRINGS PARK
BENTON HARBOR

EDEN SPRINGS PARK
Visit the historic House of David amusement park. Miniature trains run on Saturday and Sunday in summer only, with special train rides three weeks prior to Halloween and Christmas.

MAUD PRESTON PALENSKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY
If you have big bookworms, or simply enjoy a fun event, then take your kids over to the Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library. Their staff does a wonderful job of hosting weekly events for kids of all ages!

HIDDEN POINTE
Exciting 18-hole miniature golf course, batting cages, arcades, go-karts on a 1000-foot banked track, and Eddie Cole's Jumpshot basketball await your family.

CURIOUS KIDS' DISCOVERY ZONE
Continue your fun just steps away at the Curious Kids' Discovery Zone. This is a must-stop for exploratory fun! This space is geared for ages 1-10, but all are invited to come "play, learn, and be curious." The kids will love the Lake Michigan Water Table, where they can sail handmade boats through the lake currents and lock system. Another favorite exhibit is the 25-foot Lighthouse Tower, encouraging little visitors to climb the wave steps to the top and gaze out the window to catch a peek of Lake Michigan. And check out Recollections, a wall-sized dance exhibit where light and color mimic your movements on the screen. If you have little ones in the family, the Toddle Beach exhibit offers a gated area for ages four and under to experience and explore a fun house and steer a boat onto shore.

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- Located along the Harbor Country Wine Trail

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9555 North Gast Road
Bridgman, MI 49106
269.465.5522, phone
269.465.4822, fax
www.kriegersnursery.com

THE LITTLE THINGS PLAY CAFE
If you're looking for a place your children can explore and develop while you remain caffeinated, The Little Things Play Cafe deserves a spot on your itinerary. Launched to promote connection and support for children and their caretakers, The Little Things Play Cafe delivers on the idea that it takes a village to raise a child and offers an indoor playground for adults and their active toddlers. Owners Erik and Britt Webb created an open, family-friendly space filled with unique and safe indoor activities for your little ones, including wooden climbing structures and plenty of room to roam. The play areas reflect the Montessori-inspired concept of open-ended options to spark creativity. Adults can enjoy locally sourced coffee within this comfortable atmosphere as they connect and chat with their kids close by.

SLACKERS FAMILY FUN CENTER
Playing isn't just reserved for the little guys, and Slackers Family Fun Center in St. Joseph offers attractions even your big kids will love. Featuring indoor bounce houses, laser tag, laser maze, arcade games, and more, Slackers provides fun opportunities the whole family can enjoy. It's the perfect place to spend a rainy day and the instant cure for afternoon boredom. And with affordable prices, you can have a great time without busting your budget.

WATERMARK BREWING CO.
If you're looking for a place to grab a drink that is safe for the kids to join, then pop over to Watermark Brewing Company. This family-friendly environment offers and outdoor seating area with a large grassy plot to play on. You can even bring the dog! Kids will enjoy playing the claw machines and ordering a soda while you sip on your craft beverage.

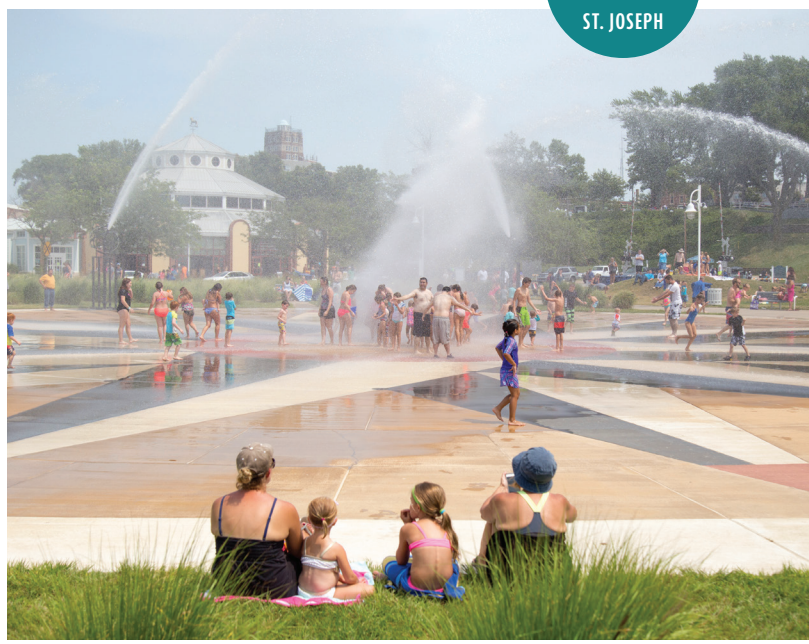
WHIRLPOOL COMPASS FOUNTAIN
Directly across the road from the Silver Beach Center is the Whirlpool Compass Fountain. The 200 ft. diameter fountain sprays water 30+ feet in the air and has water cannons that run every 15 minutes. More water fun is available at three St. Joseph beaches; Silver Beach, Lions Park Beach and Tiscornia Park Beach. There are also a variety of other family friendly parks in the area, even one with a skate park.

Special Opportunities for Summer Fun

Looking for summer camps and special summer activities? Be sure to check out Krasl Art Center, Water Street Glassworks and the Box Factory for the Arts. For a really awesome opportunity, try the stand-up paddle boarding (SUP) or surfing lessons from Third Coast Surf Shop.

Plan a Kid-Friendly Visit Any Time of the Year

No matter the season, there are boatloads of fun awaiting for you and your family in St. Joseph. If you are interested in other ideas, check out our Family Fun itinerary. Start planning your trip today! Stay overnight, let the kids splash around in a pool, and extend the fun another day.



WHIRLPOOL COMPASS FOUNTAIN
ST. JOSEPH

OUR HOTELS

Our area hotels offer many amenities to meet your needs, including views of Lake Michigan, pools for the kids to play Marco Polo in, romantic packages and tail-wagging accommodations for your pet.

BAYMONT INN & SUITES
2601 W. Marquette Woods Rd, Stevensville
269-428-9111
baymontinn4515@yahoo.com
Continental "plus" breakfasts & community health club passes, near u-pick farms, beaches and Makers Trail stops.

BEST WESTERN
1592 Mall Dr, Benton Harbor
269-925-3000
frontdesk@bwbentonstjoe.com
Features an indoor/outdoor pool, BBQ/picnic area and super-fast Wi-Fi access.

THE BOULEVARD INN
521 Lake Blvd, St. Joseph
269-983-6600
reservations@theboulevardinn.com
All-suite hotel with an on-site restaurant and a bluff view of Lake Michigan. Walk to shops, beaches and festivals.

CANDLEWOOD SUITES
2567 W. Marquette Woods Rd, Stevensville
269-428-4400
candlewoodsuites04@yahoo.com
Full-size, fully equipped kitchens, free laundry, private patio grill area, hot tub and fitness center.

COMFORT SUITES - BENTON HARBOR
1825 Meadowbrook Rd, Benton Harbor
269-925-8800
gm.mi226@choicehotels.com
All-suite hotel with indoor pool, hot tub, and sauna room. Near beaches, shopping and more.

COMFORT SUITES - STEVENSVILLE
2633 W. Marquette Woods Rd, Stevensville
269-428-4888
gm.mi240@choicehotels.com
Voted "Best of the Brand" for the region, indoor pool, sauna, sundeck, plus near attractions.

COUNTRY INN & SUITES BY RADISSON
2276 Pipestone Rd, Benton Harbor
269-927-4599
cx_bhmi@countryinnamericas.com
Indoor pool and hot tub, complimentary continental breakfast. Close to beaches and shopping.

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
1295 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor
269-210-3000
courtyardbh.frontdesk@gmail.com
The Bistro offers morning breakfast choices and drinks and dinner in the evening.

FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES
4408 Red Arrow Hwy, Stevensville
269-429-1111
fairfield.frontdesk.mi@gmail.com
One of Southwest Michigan's newest lodgings. Near beaches, dunes, golf and gorgeous sunsets.

HAMPTON INN & SUITES
1921 Pipestone Rd, Benton Harbor
269-927-5878
hamptonbyhiltonBH@gmail.com
Stay within minutes of Lake Michigan beaches, the Benton Harbor Arts District and more fun.

HILTON GARDEN INN
1300 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor
269-926-5000
hiltongardenbh@gmail.com
Spacious rooms with luxurious Serta Sleep Number beds and just minutes from beaches & Warren Dunes.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS HOTEL & SUITES
3019 Lakeshore Dr, St. Joseph
269-982-0004
mgt@sjhiexpress.com
Overlooks Lake Michigan, an indoor pool and free deluxe breakfast make this a family favorite.

HOWARD JOHNSON
798 Ferguson Dr, Benton Harbor
269-332-0122
gm@americasbestvaluesuites.com
Large, indoor pool, Jacuzzi suites & banquet/meeting spaces, off-season rates (Nov-April).

INN AT HARBOR SHORES
800 Whitwam Dr, St. Joseph
269-983-1111
info@innatharborshores.com
Overlooks St. Joseph Harbor; offers championship golf, marina, spa, trails and restaurants.

MARK III INN
4179 M-139, St. Joseph
269-281-0329
bob@markiiinn.com
Small hotel close to beaches, fishing, wineries, breweries, festivals, fairs and more.

QUALITY INN & SUITES
1598 Mall Dr, Benton Harbor
269-925-1880
noble13llc@gmail.com
All beds are queen or king size, free continental breakfast, near beaches, shopping and food.

RED ROOF INN
1630 Mall Dr, Benton Harbor
269-927-2484
i0043@redroof.com
Short drive to stores, restaurants, farm markets and beaches. Off-season rates, Oct.1-May 1.

RODEWAY INN
2723 Niles Ave, Saint Joseph
269-982-3333
rodewayinn9999@gmail.com
Quick drive to Lake Michigan beaches and entertainment, walk to restaurants and stores, Free coffee available.

SILVER BEACH HOTEL
100 Main St, Saint Joseph
269-983-7341
gm@thesilverbeachhotel.com
Views of the St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan, walk to shops, beaches, restaurants and festivals.

SPRINGHILL SUITES
1255 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor
269-338-8300
springhillbh@gmail.com
Stylish, roomy suites; complimentary, hot, healthy breakfasts, close to the arts and shopping.

STAYBRIDGE SUITES
1275 Cinema Way, Benton Harbor
269-371-0000
staybridgebh@gmail.com
Spacious suites come with fully equipped kitchens, close to beaches, wineries & breweries

SUPER 8 - BENTON HARBOR
1950 E. Napier Ave, Benton Harbor
269-926-1371
super8bh@gmail.com
Newly renovated! Close to grocery stores and restaurants, children up to 12 years stay free.

SUPER 8 - STEVENSVILLE
4290 Red Arrow Hwy, Stevensville
269-429-3218
stevensvilleinn@gmail.com
On-property restaurant, special weekly (Sept.-May) and off-season (Labor Day-May 10) rates.

SURESTAY PLUS BY BEST WESTERN
5050 Red Arrow Hwy, Stevensville
269-588-1996
Only a short distance from local shops and restaurants. Lake Michigan Beaches, Wineries, and Breweries are all within a 20-minute drive.

TRU BY HILTON
2683 W. Marquette Woods Rd, Stevensville
269-429-4444
sbnsj_tru@hilton.com
A new hotel experience! Contemporary and affordable, close to all the area's fun.

TRAVELODGE
2063 Pipestone Rd, Benton Harbor
269-605-0033
travelodge5430@gmail.com
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Your gateway to Lake Michigan

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1000 Riverview Dr., Benton Harbor, MI 49022

THERE'S EVEN MORE HERE THAN YOU KNOW

swmichigan.org has a Considerable Wealth of Information

We've tried to give you as much information as could within these pages, however there is just too much to see and do here in Southwest Michigan.

The Southwestern Michigan Tourist Council has a website to dive into even more details.

EVENTS
You'll discover an up-to-date calendar of events as they are added. You can search for a specific event name or narrow the search to the particular time frame you'll be visiting. As you plan your vacation, be sure to look at these regularly updated events in Southwest Michigan.

THINGS TO DO
With our vast area and diverse region, we have so many recreation and outdoor opportunities. You'll find a complete list of parks, beaches, and activities to enjoy the outdoors.

You'll also find a list of even more attractions that visitors enjoy as will as a list of entertainment options. For those whole love to shop, you'll want to peruse the listing of "shoptions."

FOOD & DRINK
While we've showcased many of the restaurants and makers of adult beverages, we've barely scratched the surface. The complete online list has much more information on each, such as wheelchair accessibility and pet-friend locations. There are so many tasting adventures awaiting you.

PLAN & STAY
From finding a place to stay, to suggesting itineraries and planning events, swmichigan.org has all the information you need. The Tourist Council is eager to help you make the most out of your stay.

Contact The Tourist Council

2300 Pipestone Road
Benton Harbor, Michigan
(conveniently at I-94 Exit 29)
269-925-6301
M-F: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. (ET)

SWMICHIGAN.ORG

Visit the website for the most up-to-date information and complete listing for each category.

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Tue-Fri 7am-3pm, Sat & Sun 6am-3pm

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

The businesses found throughout this visitors guide are devoted to serve you. They are eager for you eat, drink, stay and have some fun in Southwest Michigan. Please support these businesses and organizations if you can.

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creative
CONNECTIONS
Art & Culture of Southwest Michigan

earn prizes while exploring local arts & culture

The vibrancy of Lake Michigan, the serenity of our countryside and our past's rich stories inspire us. Play our Creative Connections game to discover our artists, actors, musicians and dreamers. The more you connect with, the more artsy prizes you can get.

Southwest MICHIGAN

SWMICHIGAN.ORG/CREATIVE

PHOTO: BENTON HARBOR ARTS DISTRICT